

## **Intersessional Meetings of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction**

**Geneva, 18 to 20 June 2024**

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to begin by congratulating you on assuming the Presidency of the Fifth Review Conference of the Convention this year. The Republic of Korea is pleased to participate in the Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as an observer.

As we have already shared our position on the Convention by responding to the President's universalization outreach, we fully share the humanitarian objectives of the Convention and remain concerned about the humanitarian impact of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines, despite the fact that the Republic of Korea has not yet acceded to the Convention due to its unique security situation on the Korean Peninsula.

My delegation would like to update you on our efforts to mitigate the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. The Republic of Korea has been on a steady path of anti-personnel mine clearance where possible. In 2023, we removed 767 anti-personnel mines by adhering to the core principles of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). We have also been exercising strict control over anti-personnel mines and since 1997 have maintained an indefinite extension of the moratorium on their export. In a similar vein, the Republic of Korea has not installed any mines for several years.

When it comes to existing mines, we are undertaking all possible precautionary measures to protect civilians from the risks and effects of mines by including fencing, signs, warnings and monitoring. As a party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Amended Protocol II, the Republic of Korea is also taking an active part in various discussions and activities to ensure the limited and responsible use of mines.

In addition, the Republic of Korea has also made efforts to institutionalize mine clearance activities; the *Law on Mine Response Activities Including Mine Clearance* was enacted in February 2024. In accordance with this law, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) will establish a basic mine action plan every five years and form a Mine Response Activity Committee to deliberate on matters related to mine action activities. The law also allows qualified companies or organizations to conduct mine detection and clearance activities alongside the MND. We believe that this law will provide a solid legal basis for mine action and contribute to strengthening the relevant institutional framework. In accordance with the Special Act on the Support for Mine Victims, the Government of the Republic of Korea provided more than US\$1.4 million in compensations and subsidies to persons and their surviving families affected by mine accidents between 1953 and 2012.

The Republic of Korea has also been actively taking part in international cooperation efforts to assist mine victims through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security (ITF), and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Since 1993, the ROK government has contributed over 90 million USD to support global mine action activities. Our assistance programs include the provision of humanitarian demining training

and equipment, rehabilitation and capacity building of the affected populations and communities in countries in various regions. Experts from our Ministry of National Defense have also participated in these efforts by providing technical assistance.

The Republic of Korea would like to reiterate its support and commitment to the objectives and purposes of the Ottawa Convention.

I thank you Mr. President. /End/