

Statement by H. E. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kenya at the High-level Segment of the Third Review Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction at Maputo, Mozambique, 26 – 27 June 2014

**Mr. / ~~Madam~~ President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh, I convey our sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of Mozambique for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference, and the warm welcome we felt since our arrival.

As the first State Party to the Ottawa Convention from South Asia, Bangladesh remains firmly committed to its norms and obligations. We share our status of progress with compliance through the annual transparency reports. We continue to advocate for the universalization of the instrument, in keeping with our abiding commitment to general and complete disarmament.

We remain sensitized to the absence of an enabling national legislation even as much work has already been done. The recent formation of a National Committee on International Humanitarian Law is likely to expedite our current efforts to enact this law. As the lead contributor to UN Peacekeeping Operations, we continue to invest in training for our relevant uniformed personnel on mine clearance. The stockpile retained for such purpose is duly accounted for, while the possible use of alternatives remains under our consideration. Our Government's decision to further expand our peace building capacities would hopefully allow us to enhance our contribution to victim support in post-conflict situations. The humbling presence of victims and survivors in our midst is only a reminder of the urgency of our work.

Mr./ ~~Madam~~ President,

In retrospection, this Conference makes us feel a great deal of satisfaction at what we have collectively achieved since our last high-level gathering in Maputo. While we remain only too aware of the challenges that remain, we feel energized by the courage and determination demonstrated by the State Parties and all our partners to rid our world of landmines within our lifetime.

The Maputo Action Plan would be our blueprint for moving forward in that direction in a seamless manner. We do have the advantage to be guided by the lessons and insights we have gathered in the past few decades. The real test of our intent and capacity to deliver would be to make sure that we reflect those lessons into our well-coordinated work in the days to come.

The key to our success would be to uphold the spirit of multilateralism that underpins our work. Our enthusiasm to show results must be matched with our efforts to ensure that our work and decisions emerge through an inclusive, consultative and consensus building process. In case our work remains the preserve of some, and only the results are shared with others, the national ownership and universalization of the Convention that we aspire to have will perhaps continue to remain elusive. While we are here to reaffirm our commitment to the Convention in unequivocal terms, we thought we should also stress this point as we turn a new page in the way we wish to recalibrate our work.

We have taken note of the Future Machinery proposed, and the innovative ideas involved therein. Although it may be the right approach to develop mechanisms with focused mandates, we remain a bit concerned over creating multiple such mechanisms. While the non-decision making status of these entities has been stressed, it should also remain the prerogative of State Parties to periodically review their mandates and terms of reference, as appropriate. It is further expected of these mechanisms to ensure evidence-based consultations with all concerned prior to drawing any inference or conclusion. The cost implications for the various mechanisms also need to be spelt out clearly, with adherence to the principle of equity and voluntary nature of the existing international cooperation framework.

Mr./ Madam President,

In a world still torn apart by conflicts, it brings us some relief to witness the gathering momentum on strengthening implementation of International Humanitarian Law. We firmly believe that the Ottawa Convention makes a critical contribution in the process, and in many ways sets the benchmark for fulfilling IHL obligations through meaningful partnerships and cooperation. We, in Bangladesh, thus consider this Convention to be a critical enabling tool in building the peaceful, secure and safe future that we want for our world. As we renew our pledge through the Maputo Declaration, let us unite in our resolve to show 'zero tolerance' to the use or proliferation of landmines in our pursuit of sustainable development for all.

I thank you.