

Statement at the Third Review Conference  
of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
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Mr. President,

15 years ago, the First Meeting of the State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention was held in Maputo , laying a solid foundation for the implementation of the Convention. Today, we are gathering in Maputo again, for the Third Review Conference, which I believe, will herald in a new phase of full and effective implementation of the Convention. At the outset, I would like to extend my appreciation for the special contribution made by Mozambique to the cause of international humanitarian demining and express my gratitude to you and the government of Mozambique for your tremendous efforts on preparation of the conference and the warm hospitality extended to us.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is an important achievement in the lofty cause of international humanitarianism. We are happy to witness the heartening progress achieved since the Convention came into effect 15 years ago, with production, use and transfer of anti-personnel mines (APL) considerably reduced, substantial progress made in global landmine action and stockpile destruction, and victim assistance and international cooperation significantly enhanced. We are confident that the Maputo Action Plan for 2015-2019 and the Political Declaration, to be adopted by the Review Conference, will provide clear guidance to the international society for its future efforts on international humanitarian demining and enable us to make a firm stride toward realizing the goal of a mine-free world.

As a responsible member of the international community, China has always been a constructive participant in the process of international conventional disarmament and a staunch supporter of international efforts to address humanitarian concerns caused by APLs. Given its national conditions and the national defence needs, China still could not accede to the convention at this stage. However, China ascribes to the goal and principles of the convention and highly appreciates the humanitarian spirit embodied in the convention. For years, China has maintained close exchange and cooperation with member states and ISU of the Convention, and attended previous Meetings of States Parties and Review Conferences as an observer state. Since 2005, China began to vote for the UNGA Resolution on the implementation of the convention. In 2013, H.H. Prince Mired, the Special Envoy of the Convention visited China at the invitation of the Chinese government. During his visit, Prince Mired conducted indepth discussion with Chinese officials from MFA and Department of Defence on China's landmine policy. He also visited a training institution where China hosts technical training courses for deminers from mine-affected countries. We believe that this visit will go a long way in deepening mutual understanding and strengthening cooperation and exchange between China and the ISU of the Convention.

Mr. President, as a state party to the Amemded Protocol II of the CCW, China has been faithfully fulfilling obligations under the Protocol and made positive contributions to the realization of a mine-free world through the following efforts.

Firstly, China has adopted responsible and prudent policies on the use, transfer and stockpile management of APL.

China has been earnestly implementing the Protocol and imposing strict restrictions on the use of APL, and has not made any new deployment of landmines over the past ten years. The Chinese army has incorporated the technical requirements of the Protocol into *the Outline for the Training and Assessment of the Army*, and conducted relevant military trainings accordingly.

China has faithfully adhered to its commitment since declaring a moratorium on the transfer of APLs that does not meet the technical requirements of the Protocol in 1996,

In an effort to improve stockpile management, the Chinese army has conducted comprehensive assessments of its mine inventory and destructed several hundred thousand old and dysfunctional APLs over the last two decades. Only a very limited number of protocol-compliant APLs were kept for defence purpose.

Secondly, China has made great efforts on landmine clearance and victim assistance. In the 1990s, China conducted two massive demining campaigns in the border areas, basically eradicated landmines on its own territory. In the mean time, the Chinese government has continually provided substantial financial and policy support to previously mine-affected areas, in an effort to support their reconstruction and economic development. In order to help landmine victims reintegrate into the society, the Chinese government has, in close cooperation with relevant civil society, provided them with assistance in terms of funding, materials, medicare, education and job-training.

Thirdly, China has spared no efforts on raising public awareness and capacity building. Over the years, China devoted itself to raising public awareness through conducting training courses on the implementation of the Protocol, compiling and translating professional publications on humanitarian demining, and holding ongoing out-reach activities. With a view to supporting international humanitarian demining, China has developed a series of cost-effective equipments and techniques that meet the standards of international mine action. Recent years has also witnessed breakthroughs on such projects as animal detection, mechanical detection and clean destruction of landmines.

Fourthly, China has been actively engaged in international humanitarian demining assistance. Since 1998, China has provided 70 million RMB demining assistance to more than 40 Asian and African countries, in the form of training programs, demining equipment, medical assistance and field mine clearance assistance, successfully training 500 professional deminers and clearing 200,000 square meters of mine contaminated land. The demining equipment provided by China are safe, efficient and cost-effective, therefore especially suitable to for introduction in developing countries. In April, China hosted a technical training course for deminers from Afghanistan. We will also host another

training course for deminers from Cambodia and provide assistance to Laos within this year.

Mr President, currently, more than 60 countries are still suffering from the scourge of landmines. During the Fourth Summit of CICA in Shanghai last month, H.E. President Xi Jinping called for the adoption of a New Asian Security Concept featuring common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in the region. This important initiative will not only go a long way in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, but also inject new momentum into global peace and development. We believe that the essence of this new security concept also applies in the context of the international demining effort. In this regard, we would like to make the following suggestions:

Firstly, no efforts shall be spared on resolving conflicts through political and diplomatic means, so as to build a peaceful and stable international environment, which would fundamentally eliminate incentives for indiscriminate use of weapons as landmines and clustered munition.

Secondly, efforts shall be made for the full and effective implementation of the Convention and of the Amended Protocol II to the CCW. In order to accelerate elimination of the landmine scourge left over from the history, the principle of "user to clear" should be established.

Thirdly, international cooperation and assistance must be further strengthened. We encourage the developed countries to provide the mine-affected developing countries with more assistance in terms of funding, technique, training and capacity building.

Mr. President, as a member of the international community, China stands ready to offer assistance to mine-affected countries as it has done in the past. In the mean time, China is willing to strengthen exchange and explore appropriate means of cooperation with states parties, ISU of the Convention and other relevant international organizations, in a bid to eliminate civilian sufferings caused by APLs, and make due contributions to the realization of a mine-free world at an earlier date.

Thank you.