

**Mr President of the Forth Review Conference to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention, Excellency, Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Afghanistan is a country that has been and remains a prime victim from mines and other Explosive Remnants of War. Our effort in Combating landmines is one that has sustained for more than 30 years. Last year we had the honor and privilege of serving as president during which we sought to strengthen international attention and support to achieve a mine free world for all humanity. This is a commitment of vital importance to Afghanistan and we reaffirm our commitment against Anti-Personnel mines. It is worth mentioning that the Government of Afghanistan considers the mine action as a national priority and in 2019 has allocated USD 250,000 in support of the humanitarian mine action Programme. We have enforced a national law for implementation of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention and other related conventions in line with the Article Nine of the Convention.

**Mr President,**

Afghanistan has taken new measures in adopting a more holistic approach in our mine clearance activities. In this regard we have given a new focus to further integrate gender in this important nation effort. Women's role has taken on a more productive and tangible role in mine clearing. In June 2019, a dedicated all women team, began cleaning activities in Bamyan province, a second cleanse in same province is now complete making Bamyan the first mine free province in Afghanistan. This broadly signifies the impact of the women in Afghanistan and the importance of their contribution to our society. Although, integration of women in humanitarian mine

action in Afghanistan remains a work in progress. We have been working with DMAC and UNMAS to assist women involvement in various demining tasks.

Mr President,

Afghanistan is among the countries tragically affected by IED's. In recent years we have witnessed a significant increase in the use of IEDs from terrorists threatening the stability and prosperity of Afghanistan. Unfortunately, anti-personnel mines of an Improvised nature, account for more than 50 % of all civilian casualties in Afghanistan. We also urge the increase of the international attention in addressing the issue of anti-personnel mines of an Improvised nature affecting not only people Afghanistan but many others around the world.

**Mr President,**

Furthermore, I would like to address the importance of victim assistance. We urge for an increase in awareness regarding the anti-personnel mines as well as the needs of mine victims. Over the years Afghanistan has been among the countries who witnessed an increase in the inclusion of mine survivors and other persons with mine disabilities, to the Victim disability programs. This is key factor in providing and assistance and successful reintegration of mine survivors in their communities as well as chance to a dignified and normal life.

## **5. Gratitude for international support**

Afghanistan is grateful for the support provided by the international community for mine action programme including partner countries and agencies. We convey special gratitude to donors, United Nations for their support provided to the Mine Action Programme Of Afghanistan.