



**PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

The Fourth Review Conference of the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention

Agenda item 7(a)

Oslo, November 26th, 2019

**Statement delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Milorad Šćepanović, Permanent
Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you upon the assumption of the Presidency. We thank the Kingdom of Norway, which is globally recognized as one of the humanitarian leaders, for its efforts invested in the preparation of this Conference and its key documents, aimed to ensure clear political recommitment and a clear way forward towards the further success of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We also express our gratitude to all Committee Members and the ISU for their hard work. Let me reassure you of our full cooperation in your endeavor towards the successful outcome of this Conference.

Montenegro aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Union, for all agenda items.

Mr. President,

This year we marked 20 years since the Convention entered into force. The past period witnesses that it has represented one of the key pillars of the international humanitarian law, with outstanding success in the ground which resulted in a countless number of saved lives, but also by achieving broader objectives as promotion of peace and sustainable development.

Montenegro is a strong supporter of the universalization of the Convention. The grave humanitarian consequences and a great threat to civilians and a strong negative impact on socio-economic recovery and development of impacted countries indicate that we all must step up our efforts to further promote universalization.

We must not forget the significant role of the civil society in the promotion of values of the Convention, its full implementation and universalization, and for us, this is an appropriate opportunity to express our gratitude. Organizations that provide expertise, research and analyses and also operators on the ground do not have a less significant role for the results achieved so far.

Mr. President,

We welcome the actions contained in the draft Oslo Action Plan which would provide the fresh impetus for the continuation of our efforts in the responsible implementation of the Convention. We share the values contained in the Draft Political Declaration. The review

document shows us where we could work better and existing challenges. We strongly support the adoption of these documents by consensus.

My country strongly supports all gender mainstreaming steps towards the promotion of gender equality within the political and legislative framework and in mine action operations. We welcome the efforts made by the Presidency for strengthening the gender perspective of the Convention and support a range of voluntary recommendations for the successful implementation of the gender mainstreaming ambitions of this Review Conference.

Whole disarmament infrastructure has a common objective and all disarmament instruments are facing similar problems. This is the reason why we do believe that the exchange of experiences and good practices could bring positive results. Remarkable experiences gained under this Convention could be useful for work under some other instruments with humanitarian goals.

We would use this opportunity to commend the important work of the United Nations, ICRC and civil organizations under this Convention and recognize the inclusiveness as one of the most valuable values of today's multilateralism.

International cooperation and assistance are of the crucial importance for countries with insufficient national capacity to complete the destruction of stockpiles, clearance of contaminated areas, work on a risk education or provide adequate victims assistance and other related activities. But national ownership is a prerogative for all successful projects of international cooperation. We also must express gratitude to donors who provided some countries with an opportunity to achieve their success.

Mr. President,

Montenegro is firmly committed to the implementation of the Convention, and it adheres to all its provisions. We reiterate that we do not have any remaining obligation, including stockpiles of contamination of the territory.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming our commitment to continue in the same manner in the future.

I thank you.