

Tajikistan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me express my gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Fourth Review Conference and wish all participants fruitful work and further success in activities to ban anti-personnel mines.

The Republic of Tajikistan is a party to most international treaties, including:

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, dated 18 September, 1997 (ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan on 1 April 1, 2000);
- Additional Protocol V to the Convention on the Prohibition or Restriction of the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, dated 10 October, 1980 (ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan on 20 December, 2005).

The Republic of Tajikistan attaches great significance to the efforts and highlights the important role of the international community in matters related to the prohibition of anti-personnel mines, including the whole range of problems associated with mines.

Our Government understands the seriousness of this issue and attaches great importance to its solution.

The policy of our republic with regard to the fight against anti-personnel mines was determined by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and was announced at the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly on 23 September, 2009 - "Central Asia should be a region free of mines, and we urge the international community to contribute to this goal".

This position was also confirmed in the speech of the Leader of the Nation at the OSCE summit on 2 December, 2010 in Astana, the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan will continue to take appropriate measures aimed at banning and using anti-personnel mines and will remain committed to fulfilling its international obligations.

Pursuant to the UN Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, in order to strengthen the development of activities in the field of humanitarian mine action in Tajikistan, the Government Institution “Tajikistan National Mine Action center” was established by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan dated January 3, 2014.

The legal regulatory framework for the implementation of this Convention was established in the Republic of Tajikistan - the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On humanitarian mine action”, “National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan on humanitarian mine action for 2017-2020” and “National mine action standards” have been adopted.

According to the above mentioned legal documents, the country implements humanitarian demining activities, destruction of stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, mine risk education and warning of the population, providing assistance to mine victims and advocating the ban of the use of anti-personnel mines.

It should be noted that from 1992 up to now 878 people were injured by mines and unexploded ordnance in the Republic of Tajikistan. Out of this number 529 were injured and 349 were killed. About 30 percent of the victims are children.

As of October 2019, as a result of humanitarian demining on the territory of Tajikistan, of the total number of the surveyed area contaminated with landmines along the Tajik-Afghan border and in the Central region, more than 67% (67.1%) of land was released from landmines and about 33 % (32.9%) are still under the risk of landmines.

Taking into account the remaining minefields and in accordance with Article 5 of the UN Convention on the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, in 2019, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan prepared the second request for the extension of the obligations of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2020–2025, which was submitted to the Convention Secretariat.

All additional materials requested by the Committee of the Convention with regard to this request were submitted in a timely manner.

According to the request, the Republic of Tajikistan commits to clear all contaminated territories from mines until 31 December, 2025.

More detailed information on the remaining contaminated areas will be presented to you during the presentation prepared by our delegation.

It is important to note that the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is a supporter of a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines in the world and calls on all countries to combat these deadly weapons.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, we express our gratitude to our partners - the United Nations Development Program, the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, the Norwegian People's Aid, and donor countries: USA, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Australia, Norway, Japan, France and other countries that constantly provide free assistance to the mine action program in the Republic of Tajikistan.

In order to fulfill the international obligations, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is ready to cooperate with all countries and international organizations in mine action.

Thank you for your attention!

