

## **BANGLADESH: Agenda item 7(a) Universalization**

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**Mr. President,**

The Bangladesh delegation wishes to thank you and your team for making excellent arrangements for this Fourth Review Conference towards a mine free world.

In South Asia, we welcome the accession by Sri Lanka and the concrete measures undertaken to promote compliance. We hope such measures would gain further momentum in the aftermath of the recent Presidential elections.

In our immediate neighbourhood, we reiterate our deep concern over Myanmar's continued use of anti-personnel mines, despite assurances given during the visit to the country by the Special Envoy Prince Mired bin Raád in June 2018. Our border management authorities recorded anti-personnel mine related accidents within Myanmar territory along our borders even as recently as in September and November 2019, leading to several civilian fatalities and injuries. The UN Fact-Finding Mission had been categorical about the reported use of anti-personnel mines by Myanmar armed forces in at least two States, including during the crimes against humanity committed against the Rohingya community in Rakhine State since August 2017.

We have carefully listened to the statement made by the Myanmar delegation this morning, and would urge it to impose moratorium on the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines to make good on its commitments. We also urge Myanmar to continue its work on victim assistance involving all affected communities in fully transparency, and to meaningfully engage with non-state armed groups allegedly using and stockpiling anti-personnel mines within its territory. These measures would be critical for creating an environment conducive to the safe and dignified return of the forcibly displaced Rohingya to their homes in Rakhine State. The Myanmar delegation regrettably omitted any reference to the Rohingya, and we would only remind it that any demining operations in the wake of the proposed IDP camp closure should not be used as a pretext to alter the original habitat of the Rohingya and other communities.

On its part, Bangladesh remains available to work together with Myanmar to share its experience of stockpile destruction and expertise in mine action as a lead contributor to UN peacekeeping operations. We urge those States and international or regional entities partnering with Myanmar on mine risk education and other efforts to remain seized with the real issues of concern on the ground.

I thank you.