

Morocco

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THE OSLO REVIEW CONFERENCE ON A MINE-FREE WORLD  
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as well as

Mr President,

On behalf of the Moroccan delegation, I would <sup>like</sup> first to congratulate the Kingdom of Norway for the efforts deployed in organizing this Review Conference ~~and~~ for the enormous progress made in regard of the implementation of landmines ban treaty since 1997.

Excellences, dear colleagues,

Morocco, who has signed and ratified all international legal instruments related to disarmament, has made adhering to the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction *a strategic objective*.

Even if Morocco hasn't signed nor ratified the Convention, it sees the Convention with particular interest and fully subscribes to its funding principles and humanitarian goals. Thus *Morocco actively participated to the elaboration process of the Convention* and to all related meetings.

*Morocco actively participates as an observer to all the meetings of the State Parties to the Convention*, and constructively and transparently interacts with the Presidents of the State Parties Assembly as well as with the Support unit for the implementation of the Convention.

Morocco's commitment in eliminating Anti personal mines has been highlighted by Morocco's vote in favor of different resolutions projects on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention and presented at the UN General Assembly. Such position illustrates *the constant and total support by Morocco of the humanitarian principles contained in this Convention as well as the country's deep devotion to its disarmament commitments*.

Morocco implements the Ottawa Convention dispositions through the fact that:

- a. *Morocco has never produced, exported or transferred Anti personal mines. It stopped importing them and using them way before the elaboration of the Convention.*
- b. *Since 2006, Morocco regularly and voluntarily submits a National Transparency Report* in accordance to article 7 of the Convention. The last report covers the year 2018.
- c. *In accordance with article 3 of the Convention*, mines in storage serves only for the training, especially on demining.
- d. The *mines of the Defense Line are catalogued and surveilled* according to pre-established laying plans held by Military Engineers Units. These mines have been placed way before the entry into force of the Ottawa Convention and will be eliminated as soon as the artificial regional conflict imposed to Morocco is resolved.

The issues of mines and remnant of war in the Southern Provinces of Morocco is greatly due to the separatists of the "polisario" who indiscriminately and voluntarily undertook the propagation of multiple and diverse deadly devices all over the territory of the Moroccan Sahara.

Morocco's accession to the Convention is momentarily delayed because of the sole issue related to the settlement of the regional dispute on the Moroccan Sahara and to Morocco regaining its full territorial integrity.

Thank you.