

STATEMENT BY MYANMAR
AT FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING,
PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION

OSLO, 25 – 29 NOVEMBER 2019

Your Excellency President Hans Brattskar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in Geneva

Or to Ms. Ingrid Schøyen, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary-General of the Fourth Review Conference depending on who leads the discussion at the time of the Myanmar speech.

President, Excellences, Distinguished delegates -

It is an honour for me to lead the first Myanmar delegation participating at a Review Conference under the Convention.

- Myanmar recognizes the importance of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention in putting an end to the suffering and human casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, in saving lives and in returning hope and human dignity.
- We also believe that universalization of the convention is vital in reducing humanitarian harms.

President

- Since regaining independence, Myanmar has endured almost 70 years of internal armed conflict. Throughout this period, people in the conflict areas have suffered from the anti-personnel mines.
- Building lasting peace is the most fundamental and important task in the process of stopping future use of anti-personnel mines.
- The Government has therefore placed the peace process as its highest priority. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement signed between the Government and 10 Ethnic Armed Organisations highlight mine action as a precondition for lasting peace.
- Let me assure you all that the Government of Myanmar is working hard to strengthen the knowledge of and the respect towards International humanitarian law among all parties to the conflict.

- It is a growing acceptance that anti-personnel mines hinders socio-economic development and causes unacceptable harm to innocent civilians.
- The Myanmar Government has been very active in the mine action sector and has expanded the space for humanitarian mine action operators active in the country.
- National and international mine action organizations such as Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Danish Demining Group (DDG), Humanity and Inclusion, The HALO Trust, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and UNICEF are working on the ground to deliver Mine Risk Education and assisting landmine victims.
- In 2019 alone over 280,000 people in the affected areas received the mine risk education. All together one million people received Mine Risk Education since 2016.
- The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) chairs regular Mine Risk Working Group (MRWG). Mine Risk Working meetings are also held in States and Regional level in order to decentralize coordination and response mechanism for landmine victims, IDPs and other affected communities.
- Since 2017-2018 fiscal year, our ministry has started allocation of funds for victim assistance and assisted to over 543 landmine victims. The government has also increased the budget allocation for the budget year 2019 – 2020.

President

Let me share with you a few concrete examples of the Government's commitment and efforts in line with the spirit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC);

- Myanmar has been participating as an observer in the meeting of state parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention since 2003 with an aim to increase our understanding of the convention and its works.
- Myanmar hosted a workshop in March this year to strengthen the knowledge and the implication of the various articles of the convention in a Myanmar context. The workshop was well attended with representatives from all key Ministries and moderated by a representative from the Norwegian Presidency to the APMBC.
- Myanmar last month hosted an international workshop, with attendance from among others the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Norwegian Presidency to the APMBC, to discuss how Myanmar can establish a National Mine Action Authority to lead and manage a humanitarian mine action programme in Myanmar.

- Myanmar has also undertaken various exchange visits to other mine affected states, most recently to Thailand, to familiarise various ministries on the process of becoming a signatory, the conventions obligations and how to organise humanitarian mine action in general.
- Myanmar is working closely with the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC), with the country's first annual financial contribution to the Centre since 2018-2019 financial year and enhancing technical cooperation in mine actions.

President

- Myanmar continues to strengthen its humanitarian mine action programme. Good coordination and close partnership exist between the Government and our international partners and various local partners.
- We have recently launched the “National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Closure of IDP Camps” on November 19, 2019. We are now currently finding practical ways to move forward to closing the IDP camps using this national strategy. The Government has an aim to start humanitarian demining in non-conflict areas as a part of this camp closure strategy. We acknowledge that mine action is a precondition for safe return and resettlement of IDP's, and sustainable and durable solutions.

President

- Myanmar has taken firm and visible steps to improve and increase its humanitarian mine action programme.
- Myanmar is also working closely with the ASEAN, and the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC).
- Myanmar will as soon as feasible establish the needed national legislation to establish a national mine action authority.
- Myanmar will continue to promote the full stop in the use of anti-personnel mines by all parties to the conflict.

Thank you President.