

**THE OSLO REVIEW CONFERENCE ON A MINE-FREE WORLD  
(OSLO, 25- 29 NOVEMBER 2019)**

**M. President,**

Regards to the Moroccan position concerning the Ottawa treaty, I would like to confirm Morocco's commitment to implement the obligations of the Convention related to the clearance and demining.

In this respect, Morocco continues its mine clearance and destruction process in accordance with its international commitments, and in particular *in accordance to the Agreement signed with the MINURSO in 1999, related to information exchange, mine marking, demining and mine and remnant of war destruction.*

Recognizing of the danger posed by mines and remnants of war to the population, the Royal Armed Forces of Morocco undertook demining operations since 1975, in order to reduce the impact of such devices. These efforts were enhanced in 2007 with a large scale depollution campaign.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the Royal Armed Forces operate according to three methods:

- a. A large scale yearly demining program aiming at depolluting suspected areas. since 2007, *13 demining modules* are deployed all year long.
- b. Demining activities accompanying socio-economic projects conducted in the regions impacted by the landmines and remnants of war. Thus, *165 demining detachments* were deployed from 01 January 2019 to 31 October 2019.
- c. Target intervention, limited in time and space, when incidents occurred or upon urgent request by civilian population. *54 interventions* were conducted this year, in 2019.

Since 1975, these efforts led to the *depollution of a surface area of 5560.92 km<sup>2</sup> . 96.727 landmines, including 49.325 anti-personal mines, and 20.543 remnants of war have been discovered and destroyed.*

Despite these efforts, *Morocco continues to deplore victims of landmines and remnants of war. From 1975 to 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2019, 2.670 victims, including 812 deaths, have been recorded in the southern Provinces of Morocco.*

These incidents are essentially due to mines and booby traps laid by the "polisario" without plans nor marking.

Although not a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, Morocco remains an active player and partner in anti-mine action. As such, *84 activities have been conducted since 2012 by the various stakeholders both nationally and internationally.*

**Thank you.**