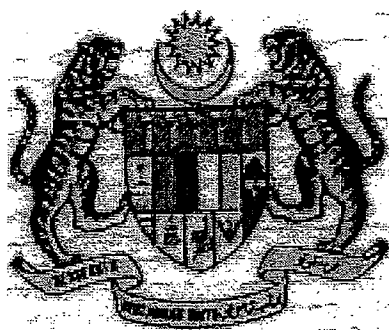


The First Review Conference of the States Parties to  
the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,  
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-  
Personnel Mines and on  
Their Destruction



Statement by

His Excellency Dato' Sri Subhan Jasmon  
Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia

Head of Delegation

MALAYSIA

29 Nov – 3 Dec 2004  
Nairobi, Kenya

**Statement to the First Review Conference of  
Ottawa Convention in Nairobi, Kenya**

(by H.E. Dato' Sri Subhan Jasmon, Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia)

Mr. President

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to all of you.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, allow me first to congratulate you on your election as the President of the First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Esther M. Tolle on her appointment as the Secretary General of the Conference.

At the same time we wish to record our appreciation to the Government of Kenya for hosting the First Review Conference and for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation.

Malaysia also wishes to thank the President of the Fifth Meeting of State Parties, the Hon. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Foreign Minister

of the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Coordination Committee for their dedicated and excellent work over the past one year.

Mr. President,

I am honoured to lead the Malaysian delegation to this meeting to reaffirm Malaysia's continuous commitment in addressing the issue of this insidious and inhuman weapon.

Let me share Malaysia's experience of dealing with landmines problem. For some forty over years, from 1948 to 1989, Malaysia faced the communist threat. The communists planted booby traps, crude forms of landmines, along the Thai-Malaysian border and their jungle hideouts. A number of our soldiers involved in the operations and some civilians became casualties.

Despite that Malaysia neither manufactured nor used the landmines in its fight against the insurgents except for perimeter defence of the jungle camps. However, the mines were removed with the dismantling of the camps. When the communists surrendered, one of the terms of the treaty with the latter was that they were supposed to assist the government to locate the areas which were planted with mines. This enabled the government to carry out demining and clearance of the areas.

Mr. President,

Since the Ottawa Convention came into force, we have witnessed significant progress. Malaysia is encouraged by the fact that more stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed; a considerable amount of land was cleared of mines; and mines action funding has been increasing significantly every year. More importantly, public awareness in fighting against the usage of mines has improved tremendously. We hope that this positive trend will continue in the next five years. We are indeed pleased that thus far 144 countries had become States Parties including Ethiopia recently. With continuous and relentless efforts by the governments, the UN agencies and the NGOs, Malaysia is confident that universalisation of the Convention is possible.

Malaysia is deeply committed to the attainment of a truly universal ban on anti-personnel mines and is proud to be one of the pioneers in the region to join the Convention. Malaysia was the Co-chair of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction for the period 2000-2001. At the Fifth Meeting of States Parties, Malaysia was appointed as one of the 'Friends of the Chair'. Once again, at this Review Conference, Malaysia has been selected to be one of the 'Friends of the President'. Malaysia completed its stockpile destruction in 2001 and in the process became the first Mine-Free Country in Asia.

Malaysia's decision not to retain any anti-personnel mines for training and development purposes is yet another commitment that we are proud to undertake. In this regard, we commend other State Parties that have chosen not to retain any anti-personnel mines permissible under Article 3 of the Convention. Malaysia continues to participate actively in the regional and international fora on the issue of anti-personnel mines.

We are indeed glad to announce that since 2001 we launched a Defence Cooperation Programme to provide training to some developing countries. Among others, it includes training in demining and mine destruction.

Malaysia continues to stress the importance of universalisation of the Convention and its promotion and that it be placed high on the international agenda. We fully support the discussion on the anti-personnel mines issue at the regional level to complement efforts to universalise the Convention. In this regard, Malaysia calls upon all non-State Parties, especially those in the Asia-Pacific region, that continue to use, develop and produce anti-personnel mines, to cease doing so immediately, and become a Mine-Free Country. Malaysia recognizes that Asia Pacific has the highest number of non-signatories. We believe that by becoming States Parties to the Convention and undertaking measures required by the Convention, they would contribute to regional peace and stability as it promotes trust and transparency among the neighbours.

Malaysia attaches great importance on the need to work closely with international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, in combating the scourge of this weapon. In this regard, Malaysia commends the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines (ICBL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as other relevant organisations for their strong and substantive contributions towards the inter-sessional programmes and the overall consolidation of the Convention. We should joint efforts and put all available resources into effective programmes that would shape a more meaningful response to the demining activities as well as assist victims around the world.

At current levels of mine action funding, Malaysia is concerned that many mine-affected States Parties may find it difficult to meet the ten-year deadline for the completion of mine clearance. Furthermore, the number of landmine victims requiring assistance continues to increase. Although Malaysia has neither land contaminated by landmines nor landmine victims in recent years, it believes that a comprehensive and integrated approach to victim assistance should be put in place.

The crusade against landmines cannot be deemed complete until we achieve "Zero Mines" and "Zero Victim". The entire international community must utilise all available means and resources to achieve this goal. We must step-up our efforts to make sure that the Ottawa Convention continues to strive and

become an effective instrument that will pave the way for the betterment of millions of humans beings affected by the anti-personnel mines.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we can certainly be proud of the Convention's achievements thus far. However, we have to be mindful that there are still many challenges ahead. Towards this end, Malaysia fully endorses the 'Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009' and considers it as a comprehensive and practical action plan. Likewise, we hope the others too would support the plan and its implementation.

Thank you, Mr. President.