

MALTA

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking floor, allow me to offer my congratulations on your election and on your smooth handling of these proceedings. Our thanks go to Kenya for the preparations undertaken to make the Nairobi Summit a success.

Mr. President,

Although Malta does not produce, possess or transfer anti-personnel mines, and is a mine-free country, Malta is ever conscious of the suffering and dilapidating effects of mines, in all their forms, on populations around the world.

Since its signature and later ratification of the Ottawa Convention, Malta has worked with other States Parties in the promotion and the implementation of the Convention. Through its participation in the meetings of the Standing Committees and of the States Parties, as well as its token financial contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund, Malta wants to highlight not only its full adherence to the provisions of the Ottawa Convention but also the importance Malta attaches to the Convention's universalization. In our view, the goals and objectives of the Convention are the ownership of all countries, big or small, rich or poor.

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to which the Nairobi Action Plan provides an important way forward.

A State Party to the CCW and since last September to Amended Protocol II, Malta is also one of the sponsors of the 30-Nation Proposal on MOTAPM, which hopefully will give the Ottawa Convention another mine-related dimension.

As a new Member of the European Union, Malta intends to work closely with other Member States, in the implementation of the European Community's programme in the area of anti-personnel landmines, namely, 'The European Roadmap to a Zero Victim Target (2005-2007)

~~Yesterday~~ This meeting started consideration of the 2005-2009 Nairobi Action Plan - a document described as 'the key' for future action. Indeed, My delegation considers the Action Plan as a well-knit strategy which goes a long way in the reaffirmation of States Parties in their "unqualified commitment to the full and effective promotion and implementation of the (Ottawa) Convention."

Indeed, my delegation feels that here in Nairobi we are mapping a strategy that will look to the future and a way forward with the hope that mine-affected populations will be able to live in security and enjoy the benefits of their land toiled by their ancestors and land which could offer new opportunities for present and to future generations.

Mr. President,

The proposed Nairobi Action Plan, laboriously prepared under your guidance and leadership, outlines goals and objectives that in the view of my delegation are achievable if all concerned pull their weight and work in unison. The five strategic elements set out in document

**L4/Rev.1, as well as the actions contemplated therein, compliment each other and should be conducive to a road-map that will lead us to the improvement of the lives of millions of people.**

**In this context, my delegation would like to highlight one particular aspect of the proposed Action Plan, namely, the regional dimension. It is to be recalled that there are countries in the Mediterranean region that are still not a State Party to the Ottawa Convention. In line with the Nairobi Action Plan, Malta intends to work with these non-State Parties as well as with other countries to bring about a Mediterranean free from anti-personnel mines. The difficulties and complexities of the Mediterranean region cannot be minimized. Yet we feel that with the strong political will, determination and commitment, and above all the co-operation of all concerned, the adherence by all Mediterranean States to the Ottawa Convention can be considered as another confidence-building measure to strengthen peace, security and co-operation in our region.**

**Mr. President,**

**In conclusion, may I reiterate Malta's readiness to work assiduously with other countries, to promote the proposed Nairobi Action Plan with a view to surmounting the challenges which still lie ahead and as appropriately stated in the proposed Action Plan "to achieve progress towards ending for all people and for all time, the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines."**