



**STATEMENT BY UNDERSECRETARY PATRICIA OLAMENDI REPRESENTING THE  
PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, MR. VICENTE FOX, IN 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.**

Mr. President:

On behalf of the Government of Mexico, I would like extend our gratitude and recognition to the Government and people of Kenya, to you Mr. President and to the United Nations for the magnificent organization of the Nairobi Summit on a Mine –Free World.

It is very significant that an event which today brings us together is celebrated in an African country, a region that unfortunately suffers the devastating consequences of the anti-personnel mines and has demonstrated its firm commitment to its proscription. We notice with satisfaction that this summit, celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Ottawa Convention entry into force, will adopt measures that will bring us closer to the goal of wiping out forever this indiscriminating weapon.

We arrive to this First Review Conference with enticing progresses. Today, the number of State Parties to the Convention adds up to 144. This means that the commitment of wiping out the severe humanitarian consequences of the anti-personnel mines has acquired universal strength. Approximately 37 million mines all over the world have been destroyed, extensive mine zones have been cleared, the production of these devices has been reduced, and the proscription of its use has become a standard in International Law. Nevertheless we have now the task of insuring the universal and convergent application of provisions established by the Ottawa Convention.

I would like mention some of the aspects of our work of special relevance for Mexico:

First, highlight that the application of the Ottawa Convention has demonstrated the existence of a liaison between disarmament and development. This liaison derives from the acknowledgement that security is a wide concept that does not limits itself strictly to the military or humanitarian aspect.

Second, all security strategies should be based on prevention. It is fundamental to deal with the causes that originate risk situations for the people. It is necessary to create a confidence circle in which security and development are mutually reinforced and at the same time promote an environment in which disarmament is possible.

Third, it is crucial to strengthen the dialogue and the joint effort among States, International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, in order to channel the existing resources towards programs that assure a better standard of life for the individuals affected by anti-personnel mines. This also requires the involvement of the International Financial Organizations and the private sector.

In order to attain the goals of the Ottawa Convention, essential measures need to be adopted in order to promote the complete reinsertion of all those affected by the explosion of an antipersonnel mine. Unfortunately, we must recognize that the victims have limited possibilities for its full reinsertion and face discrimination as well as other obstacles of physical, social and cultural nature.

In addition to strengthening the existing program within the convention framework, the door must be open to new initiatives aimed at promoting the protection of human rights of disabled persons. The adoption of a unique instrument that protects and promotes the human rights of people with disabilities will undoubtedly complement the objectives of the Ottawa Convention regarding assistance to victims.

Mexico recognizes the important role that organizations from civil society have played in this process. Its actions promoting and monitoring the fulfillment of the States obligations have been a decisive factor in the adoption and application of the Convention.

In the same manner such organizations have established a constant and fruitful dialogue with the governments to include actions against mines in its development programs. Its field work in clearing mined areas, educating people, and assisting victims has been constant and devoted.

Mr. President

Mexico considers that the Nairobi Action Plan adequately points out the road to follow for the next five years. The measures that we now adopt in this Conference stem from the conviction that these weapons must not cause more suffering, especially among the civil population.

My government renews its commitment with the humanitarian objectives of the Convention and will not spare efforts until anti-personnel mines are totally eliminated and assistance is provided to victims in an integral manner.

Thank you.