



**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**

NAIROBI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA

29 NOVEMBER - 3 DECEMBER 2004

Statement by Mr. Fuad HASANOVIĆ,
Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me first join the previous speakers in expressing the assurances of my highest consideration to you, Mr. Chairman, and to this distinguished forum. We appreciate very much the high level of attendance of this conference and the excellence of debate. I would also like to commend our host – Kenya, for the outstanding organisation and the warm hospitality we enjoy here. Our special gratitude goes to UN Secretary-General Annan for convening this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased we have before us four draft documents of outstanding quality:

- A comprehensive Review of progress;
- A concise and powerful Declaration;
- An elaborate and forward-looking Action Plan with concrete deadlines;
and
- A reasonable Programme of future meetings.

Documenting our achievements in the past 5 years, the Review testifies to the incredible progress that has been made. It secures our achievements.

Sending out a strong political message, the Declaration is a powerful expression of our unity of purpose. It sustains the momentum and reinvigorates our commitment.

Taking stock of our remaining challenges, the Action Plan represents an adequate springboard for action. Its time-framed activities are well-tailored to the reaching of our goals.

Laying out our future work, the Programme establishes a sensible time frame to guide our future meetings. They remain regular and their number measured, yet purpose-driven.

I do believe these documents can make a difference in our quest for a mine-free world in which there will be zero new victims. The Review, the Declaration, the Action Plan, and the Programme,:

- Have the inner strength to appeal to public consciousness and conscience;
- Are further proof to the unprecedented partnership that exists between states, international organizations and civil society against the scourge of anti-personnel mines;
- Demonstrate our moral upper hand; and
- Show the essentially humanitarian character of our undertaking to help end the suffering caused by mines.

Still, **Mr. Chairman**, much remains to be done in terms of universalizing the Convention, destroying stockpiled mines, and clearing mined areas. The Republic of Macedonia has aligned itself with the statement of the EU. What I would like to nonetheless highlight are two issues my delegation attaches utmost importance to:

- Further assisting victims through enhanced health-care services, social rehabilitation and economic reintegration. Without proper empowerment of victims our struggle cannot be made sustainable and irreversible. Raising awareness on the rights and needs of persons with disabilities must continue. To this end, we all need to further our constructive partnership with the media and to establish appropriate national legal frameworks; and
- The achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, ensuring environmental sustainability, and/or promoting development are hindered by the presence of mines. This needs to be changed sooner rather than later. Also, the creation of national strategies in the above fields has to take into account and include provisions on mine action.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, let me reiterate the deep conviction of this delegation that the goal of a world free of mines is nonetheless attainable. The Ottawa Treaty is one of the few success stories among the disarmament-related conventions. It has managed to make a marked difference in the lives of the ordinary people on the ground. We have to keep the promise to the thousands of mine victims around the world, alleviate their suffering and prevent new cases. In addition, the role of the United Nations has proven valuable in tackling this issue, thus strengthening the belief in the Organisation and illustrating the utility of the multilateral effort. It is through coordination of the activities of the UN, governments, national and international non-governmental organizations and other actors that the 2005-2009 objectives can be realized.

Thank you.