



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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**STATEMENT**  
by  
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**at the High Level Segment of 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**

**Nairobi, November 29, 2004**

Mr. President,

I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the Presidency of 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. Moldovan delegation is confident that under your able guidance, we will be able to make the Nairobi Summit a success.

Our congratulations also go to the other office bearers.

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,

My delegation fully agrees with the generally shared assessment that since the entry into force of the Ottawa Convention, much progress has been made to achieve its core objectives. The 2004 Landmine Monitor Report, released 10 days ago and presented this morning by the ICBL representative reflects in detail and comprehensively the pace of that progress: more than 62 million land mines have been destroyed thus far, including 37.3 million by Mine Ban Treaty States Parties. These figures attest to the effectiveness of the Ottawa Convention in combating landmine problems.

However, much work remains to be done. The fact that only three states joined the Mine Ban Treaty from November 2003 till November 2004, despite increased universalization efforts on the part of governments and NGOs in the lead-up to the Nairobi Summit, is disturbing. Forty-two countries, with a combined stockpile of some 180-185 million antipersonnel mines, continue to remain outside of the Mine Ban Treaty. Regretfully, a small number of states, non-Parties and Signatories continue to use APLs.

The goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines can only be achieved through the universalization and full implementation of the APM Ban Convention. The Republic of Moldova supports the efforts aimed at **universalizing** the APM Ban Convention and calls non-ratifiers that have not yet done so, to accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

We believe, however, that universalization should serve, also, to enhance transparency, build confidence and promote understanding between states. This is why we call on non-States Parties, including those of the Commonwealth of Independent States that have troops and ammunitions deployed on the territory of other sovereign states, in particular those affected by internal conflicts, to immediately withdraw or destroy all APLs that might be still in the stocks, in conditions of full transparency.

While we are witnessing an increasing understanding of the purpose of Convention among Governments, we remain concerned about the behaviour of an irreducible number of non-state actors that resort to use, produce, accumulate or traffic anti-personnel mines.

We share the view that that the excessive accumulation and illegal circulation of small arms and anti-personnel mines have the potential to exacerbate internal conflicts and to undermine peace agreement in many parts of the world. It is in this context that we strongly support the inclusion in the draft *Action Plan* of relevant provisions aimed at condemning, and taking appropriate steps to end the stockpiling, production and transfer of APLs by armed non-state actors.

Also, we welcome the relevant provisions on Non-State Actors contained in the *Common African Position on Anti-Personnel Landmines*, adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, this September.

Mr. President,

The *Ottawa Convention* process has created an impressive international coalition against the terror of anti-personnel. As a part of coalition, my country has actively supported this process. Thus, the Republic of Moldova has voted for every annual pro-ban UNGA resolution since 1996 and completed destruction of all APLs in mined areas under its control in 2000, one year before it became a State Party to the *Mine Ban Treaty* (8 September 2000). In 2002, Moldova completed the destruction of its APLs stockpile, far ahead of the March 2005 deadline.

In addition, it supported the efforts of the international community to strengthen the multilateral legal instruments aimed at reducing the suffering of combatants and of civilians in armed conflicts. With this conviction, Moldova has acceded on September 8, 2000, to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and gave its consent to be bound by its four Protocols. The Republic of Moldova remains committed to implement all its obligations under the Ottawa Convention.

Distinguished delegates,

Like other delegations, we believe that the draft of the **Action Plan** that has resulted from the preparatory meetings has become much stronger and result oriented. It reflects the collective will of States Parties and their partners to move forward with determination during the crucial five year period following Nairobi.

In this context, we would like to commend the Non-Governmental Organizations, especially the *International Campaign to Ban Landmines* (ICBL) and the *International Committee of the Red Cross* (ICRS) for their invaluable work in the process of elimination of APLs. The Republic of Moldova acknowledges the fact that it was through the active role of the NGOs that a quick and effective instrument for the abolition of a whole class of weapons with indiscriminate effect was created. We grant our full support to the NGOs in their efforts to render practical assistance for the implementation of the Convention, especially in the most mine-affected regions.

Also, we congratulate the *Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining* (GICHD), the *Coordinating Committee*, the *Implementation Support Unit* and *Sponsorship Programme* for the important work they have done in furthering the work of the Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines, as well as for facilitating the participation in the preparatory meetings of the First Review Conference and of the Nairobi Summit of many national delegations through the sponsorship programme.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation would like to extend a warm welcome to the new State Party to the Ottawa Convention, Ethiopia.

Thank you for your kind attention.