

STATEMENT FOR THE 7TH MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES
18-22 SEPTEMBER 2006
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

DISTINGUISHED GUEST, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON YOUR PRESIDENCY FOR THE 7TH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES. MY DELEGATION WISHES TO ASSURE YOU OF ITS FULL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION DURING THIS MEETING AND WE ARE VERY MUCH PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO BE HERE WITH YOU ALL TODAY. THIS MEETING INDEED IS THE FIRST TIME BRUNEI DARUSSALAM ATTEND SINCE ITS RATIFIED THE CONVENTION ON 24 APRIL THIS YEAR.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

SINCE WORLD WAR II, THE WEAPON OF CHOICE IN MANY CONFLICTS HAS ALL TOO OFTEN BEEN LANDMINES. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THOSE COUNTRIES USING LANDMINES ARE FOUND IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD SINCE LANDMINES ARE CHEAP AND LESS SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, UNFORTUNATELY THESE ARE THE COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO CLEAN THE LANDMINES ONCE CONFLICT ENDED.

THE ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES AND OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR (ERW) REMAIN A DANGER TO THE PEOPLE AS THEY COULD CONSTRAIN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF A STATE, ESPECIALLY IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR. THUS, THE OTTAWA CONVENTION, WHICH WAS OPENED FOR SIGNING IN 1997, CALLED FOR AN END TO THE USE, PRODUCTION, TRADE, STOCKPILING OF ANTIPERSONNEL LANDMINES. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM GIVES IT STRONG SUPPORTS TO THE EFFORTS MADE TO ELIMINATE THE USE AND PRODUCTION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES SO AS TO REDUCE ITS EFFECTS ON CIVILIANS.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM SIGNED THE CONVENTION ON 4 DECEMBER 1997 AND RATIFIED IT THIS YEAR. FOLLOWING BRUNEI DARUSSALAM RATIFICATION, THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES CONVENTION ORDER 2006 HAS BEEN DRAFTED.

THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES CONVENTION ORDER 2006 ONCE IT IS ENFORCED WILL PROHIBIT THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, ACQUISITION, POSSESSION, TRANSFER, STOCKPILING AND PLACEMENT OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES, IN THE TERRITORY OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM. FURTHER IT WILL PROHIBITS INDIVIDUALS TO ASSIST, ENCOURAGE OR INDUCE, IN ANY WAY, ANY PERSON TO ENGAGE IN ANY RELATED ACTIVITY. IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES CONVENTION, THE DRAFT ORDER WILL NOT PROHIBIT THE ACQUISITION, POSSESSION, TRANSFER OR PLACEMENT OF NO MORE THAN THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES DEEMED NECESSARY FOR THE

DEVELOPMENT OF AND TRAINING IN, MINE DETECTION, MINE CLEARANCE
OR MINE DESTRUCTION TECHNIQUES.

THE DRAFT ORDER WILL REQUIRE INDIVIDUALS TO DISCLOSE
INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR BRUNEI DARUSSALAM TO MEET ITS
OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE CONVENTION AND PROVIDE
MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF MEMBERS OF FACT-FINDING
MISSION TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, SHOULD SUCH A MISSION BE
AUTHORIZED UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF THE CONVENTION.

THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES CONVENTION ORDER WILL ALSO
CONTAIN PENALTIES INCLUDING FINES OR IMPRISONMENT (THE AMOUNT
OF FINES AND TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT TO BE DETERMINED) OR BOTH
FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FOUND GUILTY OF CONTRAVENING
PROVISIONS OF THE ORDER.

AS REQUIRE BY THE CONVENTION, A GOVERNMENT AGENCY HAS
BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE CONVENTION.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION.