

**Statement by Mr. Myint Thu,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
at the Eighteenth Meeting 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**

Geneva, 16-20 November 2020

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the assumption of the Presidency of the 18th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Land Mine Convention.

Since 2003, Myanmar has been participating as an Observer in the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention.

Although Myanmar is not yet a State Party to this Convention, she has taken a number of initiatives, including mine risk education, advocacy, victim assistance, and cooperate with the countries in the region and international partners.

Mr. President,

Allow me to update you on a number of initiatives taken by Myanmar related to the Mine Action.

Firstly, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has been organizing the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in close cooperation with the UNICEF, relevant UN Agencies and members of the Mine Risk Working Group (MRWG).

Myanmar has also conducted a number of awareness raising Seminars and Workshops on Mine Risk Education and Mine Awareness at schools and communities.

From 2016 to 2020, Myanmar reached out to 1,050,725 people focussing on Mine Risk Education, including awareness on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). Out of which, 81 per cent are women and children.

Furthermore, necessary assistance and livelihood support, including victim support, rehabilitation, and the provision of prosthesis, have been given to the mine survivors and affected communities. Myanmar has launched the physical rehabilitation programme to the mine survivors in cooperation with the ICRC.

In collaboration with UNICEF and EU Humanitarian Aid, Myanmar has also developed the EORE Tool Kit, which consists of pamphlets on Mine Awareness, and Education Programmes dedicated to children.

Mr. President,

The Government of Myanmar has been prioritizing the Peace Process and securing mine safety, raising awareness among the public and rehabilitating victims of mines.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also established the Mine Risk Education Working Group, which comprises of relevant Ministries, UN Agencies, and national and international organisations.

The Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement attended the Fourth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention held in Oslo, Norway in November 2019.

Myanmar has formed the Mine Action Working Group on 22 May 2020 in order to craft the National Mine Action Strategy. It is indeed the first step towards formulating a National Strategy and Plan of Action for mine clearance.

Myanmar also participated in the 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors held in Geneva from 11 to 14 February 2020. Myanmar delegation was led by Director-General, Department of Rehabilitation under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Mr. President,

From the ASEAN perspectives, Myanmar has been actively participating in the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) since its inception in May 2016.

The Center aims to collectively tackle the humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) through an integrated approach of experiences sharing, skills training and capacity building activities.

Mr. President,

Even though Myanmar is not a party to the Convention, she has been following attentively on the Meetings of States Parties of the Convention, which play an important role in ending the human suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel land mines.

We believe that continued support from the international community and relevant international organisations will help us to further promote awareness on mine risk education, and facilitate physical rehabilitation, vocational training, socio economic reintegration in the country.

We therefore encourage the relevant international organisations to further strengthen cooperation and necessary technical support in order to facilitate the national mine actions expeditiously.

I thank you.