

APMBC Pledging Conference

Tuesday, 25 February, in **Room XI**, Palais de Nations,

Geneva 13:00 – 13:30

Statement of the State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sudan

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to express my thanks and appreciation to all of you for your participation in this important meeting and for your support to Sudan to preside over the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, and for the efforts made in support of our ultimate goal of reaching a world free of mines by the year 2025.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is often cited as the first humanitarian disarmament treaty which aims to preventing and addressing human suffering caused by a particular weapon. The prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and their destruction is an essential step in the path of disposal of this weapon, which causes severe human damage during and after conflicts and stands in the way of development and progress.

It is a “people - centred” Convention that began as a call to support some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. As many of you may recall, it was also the first Convention to include provisions to assist victims and survivors.

Through the realisation of the Convention’s goals, States Parties are saving lives, protecting people, assisting victims and survivors and enabling sustainable development in affected areas.

Excellencies

Since the entry into force of the Convention more than 20 years ago, State Parties have destroyed almost 53 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines and 30 of states parties have completed mine clearance obligations. We have reduced the risk of further casualties, we have released vast areas of land to communities for productive use, and we have made progress in ensuring victims and survivors to lead dignified lives.

Despite all these successes ,we remain deeply concerned by the rise in the numbers of casualties caused by anti-personnel mines in recent years, the high number of injuries and deaths is a cruel reminder of the

continued relevance of the Convention. For lives to be saved We have to continue and strengthen our efforts to stigmatize and end the use of these weapons by all actors.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Oslo Action Plan, adopted by the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo approximately three months ago, is a major step forward to combating the threat posed by anti-personnel mines. It helps us achieving the goal of a mine-free world by 2025 by strengthening the four core aims of the Convention and its supporting implementation mechanisms.

The adoption of the Oslo Action Plan and the Oslo Political Declaration adopted by the 164 States Parties emphasizes the strong commitment from our countries.

Among other commitments, the Oslo Action Plan highlights:

- The importance of compliance with the Articles of the Convention.
- The importance of accelerating our survey and clearance efforts.
- The need to ensure that people who have been injured by mines have access to healthcare and other services they need to be able to live independently and in dignity, the action plan also commit full and equal inclusion of survivors and victims.
- The need to ensure the delivery of context specific mine risk education activities.

And very importantly:

- Ensuring partnership by states in a position to provide assistance and those in need of assistance to address remaining challenges. After all, we know that most mine-affected countries are low-income countries that are dependent on international support for mine clearance

Achieving the goals of the Oslo Action Plan, as we know, an important part of our sector's effort to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To this end, allow me to express our thanks and appreciation to Norway for leading the efforts through the Fourth Review Conference and all of the States parties for their participation in this effort.

Dear Colleagues,

We are all concerned on the increased use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by terrorist groups such as Boko-haram and others in our region.

With all the challenges that we are facing it's important to work together to find the best means of cooperation, to help one another when possible.

A good example of solidarity can be the most recent initiative by the African Union on Silencing Guns, aiming to achieve a set of goals and maintaining peace and security throughout the African continent and to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Vision 2063.

Another example for coordination is from my own region, the bilateral collaboration between Sudan and Chad in clearance of landmines in the border areas. We are working on an agreement to be finalized soon.

As you may be aware Sudan recently witnessed political transformation, following a popular revolution called for freedom, peace and justice and was able to establish a transitional government, to which I proudly belong. This government is determined to make fundamental positive changes in the country. Peace making as one of the priorities of the government has been launched with all armed groups and some agreements has been signed with them and the process is moving on .

The transitional government is working on opening humanitarian corridors through mine action, these efforts will help many areas to develop and prosper.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to thank our partners including the United Nations, ICRC, ICBL and the GICHD for the great support they provide, we will continue working closely with you to ensure achieving our goals.

With all that said and for our efforts to succeed I strongly urge and encourage all State Parties to contribute, to the critical work of the ISU and to the Sponsorship Programme.

I thank you and I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future. Perhaps we will see some of you joining us for our 4th of April celebrations in Khartoum.

I Thank you.