

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MRS. MARIA SIPOS,
THE AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA IN COLOMBIA**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to convey warm greetings to all the participants in the Cartagena Summit and to commend their commitment to struggle the terrible scourge of landmines.

My presence here, as the Representative of Romania, speaks of the great importance which my country gives to the Ottawa Convention, its implementation and the growth of its influence. I would like to thank the Columbian Government, Ambassador Susan Eckey of Norway and the United Nations for their leadership in organizing this Summit. It is more than meaningful that this Review Conference is taking place in South America a continent determined to overcome the scourge of anti-personnel landmines. The Cartagena Summit gives opportunity to concerned governments, experts and NGOs to asses what has been achieved since 2004 and lays the way forward for future work. We are witnessing an international event that aims to agree on a strong and concrete plan of action to address the humanitarian problem caused by landmines in the coming years.

Romania gives capital importance to the Ottawa Convention, to its implementation as a means of prevention and to its requirement to assist the victims of these dreadful weapons. We expect that the Cartagena Summit will result in a renewed commitment for the full implementation of the Convention. The message sent to the outside world should be clear and strong in today's international relations; this is a problem that can be solved. While the global community has rallied as ever before for a world free of anti- personnel mines, a lot of work needs to be done. Renewed dedication is required to ensure that mines are removed from the ground. Hence, the biggest challenge for the Cartagena Summit is to secure the necessary

political and financial commitment to continue to eliminate the humanitarian impact of anti-personal mines.

There have been major achievements over the last few years but let us not become complacent as major challenges remain in achieving the vision for a Mine Free World. We express the hope for a wholehearted embrace of the ambitious and visionary Cartagena Declaration that this Conference will adopt, entrenching our steadfast contributions to peace.