

Statement by H.E. Jacek Perlin

**Head of the Polish Observer Delegation at the Second Review Conference
to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production
and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction**

Cartagena de Indias, 4 December 2009

Madam President,

Let me first of all congratulate you for your excellent leadership during this Conference. I would like to also express my appreciation and congratulate the authorities of the Republic of Colombia for the outstanding organization of this meeting.

Madam President,

Since its entry into force, the Ottawa Convention has made important contribution toward reducing human suffering from anti-personnel mines. Poland, endorsing the ideals on which the Ottawa process has been founded, signed the Mine Ban Treaty in December 1997.

For several years now Poland has voluntarily implemented most of the Convention provisions: we do not produce, export or use anti-personnel mines in military operation. There are no mined areas on the territory of Poland. I am also happy to inform that Poland progressively reduces its anti-personnel mines stockpiles. In 2008 more than 650 thousand of anti-personnel mines were withdrawn from military inventories and disassembled. This process is being continued.

Polish soldiers are involved in mine-clearing activities in the post-conflict areas within the framework of peacekeeping and stabilizing missions. Furthermore, Poland voluntarily submits Article 7 national reports, supports UN General Assembly resolution in support of the Ottawa Convention and responds to annual questionnaires of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on anti-personnel mines and explosives remnants of war, as well as to the questionnaire of Landmine Monitor.

Madam President,

The High Level Segment seems to be great opportunity to stress once again our commitment to the spirit of the Ottawa Convention. It is an excellent moment to repeat that this year Polish Government adopted the *Information on the state of readiness of the Council of Ministers to bind the Republic of Poland by the Ottawa Convention*. Its adoption constitutes the first step in the Mine Ban Treaty ratification process which – in accordance with the Polish Government's goal – should be finalized in 2012.