



The Cartagena Summit on a Mine - Free World
A Shared Commitment • Cartagena/Colombia • 29 November - 4 December / 2009

**Speech of the Republic of Tajikistan Head of Delegation,
Mr. Bakhtiyor Khudoyorov, Minister of Justice at the Second
Review Conference 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
(Kartagena, November 29 - December 4, 2009)**

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Let me express the words of gratitude to the Government of Colombia and to everyone, who arranged warm reception and wonderful conditions for our job.

I believe that this conference will be an important step in the issue of making Global Community aware of the actual mission of Convention and serve as the platform required to further join efforts to combat for liquidation mines throughout the world.

As it is obvious from the Action Review and the status of the Convention on 2005-2009 during the last period we reached significant progress towards to Mine Free World. This is the result of joint actions of all stakeholders of the Convention.

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

H.E.Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan in his statement to the participants of 64th session of the UN General Assembly again assured the interest of Tajikistan in activating efforts to achieve prohibition of antipersonnel mines. Having recognized that importance of the universalization of Ottawa Convention in the region, he highlighted, in particular following: «Over a long period of time Tajikistan has experienced the consequences of mining. We believe that Central Asia must be free from mining threat, and we call upon the international community to make its contribution to achieve this noble goal».

We would like to pay special attention to the mine problem of the Tajik-Uzbek border. According to the Republic of Tajikistan official sources of information, mines laid on Uzbek-Tajik border have brought record losses to the civilians and economy of the border districts of our Republic. Totally from 1999 to present, 161 people suffered, including 87 injured and 74 killed. From this number, 14 injured and 15 killed are children, and 6 injured and 4 killed are women. Antipersonnel mines are still the real threat for the civilians living in the border districts. Unfortunately, mines continue disrupting until present. This year 2 people were killed immediately as a result of mine disruption.

We appeal now to the Global Community to share our concern on existence of mine field along the border and the

civilians tripping a mine in the Central Asia. Let every explosion on the border of the countries at the region resulting in death of innocent people, be an alarm bell for every country that adheres principles of humanism. We are not aimed to accelerate tension – we draw attention of the international community to the existence of the problem.

Being a participant of all international papers on human rights and the member of number of universal and regional international organizations, Republic of Uzbekistan has confirmed its adherence to the fundamental principles of human rights, which is based on integral right of people to live. And this imposes some obligations to ensure peaceful and civilized co-existence. It was marked on 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the rights of children, we are responsible that our children, the future of our nations are killed by antipersonnel mines.

Availing of the opportunity, I would like to point out again that Tajikistan wants to see Central Asia region free of mines. Therefore, we appeal to the countries of the region to join to the Ottawa Convention, to take practical measures to clear mine areas and resolve all related issues.

To confirm adherence to the Ottawa process, Republic of Tajikistan in collaboration with International Geneva Center on Humanitarian Demining, European Union, OSCE and

International Trust Fund of Slovenia held two conferences the last year: July 7-8 "Progress of implementation Ottawa Convention in Central Asia" and November 16-18 "Assisting Regional Cooperation on Mine Action". The last conference made an attempt to consider opportunity to establish Mine Action Regional Coordination body in Central Asia. The goals of this structure aimed to strengthen measures of trust and security are focused on activating of bilateral and multilateral dialog in Central Asia to clear mined joint borders and launching the process on achieving mine free Central Asia region.

Although a big job has been done, the problem in the country yet exists. As it was mentioned, in accordance with the Article 5 of the Convention, the deadline for mine clearance in Tajikistan will expire on April 1, 2010. However, unfortunately, because of delay of humanitarian demining, lack of funds, demining teams, lack of mechanical demining means, delay in involvement of the mine detection dogs in demining operations, etc. we fail to implement our obligations by above deadline.

Taking into consideration the above situation and availing of the opportunities provided by the Article 5 of Convention, our Government has developed Request for Extension that has been the subject for consideration at this Conference. On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan Government, I would like to thank the state parties for their understanding and support of our Request for

Extension. I believe that the new deadline will be able to complete the important mission on release of lands from mines.

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

We support the Cartagena Action Plan for 2010-2014 adopted on this conference and aimed to terminate mankind suffering from antipersonnel mines and to demonstrate its firm decision to assist actively to give the Convention the universal nature at all its appropriate shapes. Tajik authorities will take appropriate measures to implement this plan, including in the frame of international collaboration.

On behalf of Republic of Tajikistan Government, I would like to express our gratitude to all countries and international organizations providing support in implementation of Mine Action Program. A would like as well to thank the deminers, who risk their life to establish world, free of mines and UXOs.

While advocating for overall prohibition of antipersonnel mines, we appeal to all countries to take extra efforts to destruct that an artful weapon.

Tajikistan believes this future oriented conference will identify priority directions in the frame of the activities implemented, where we will be able to increase our efforts in the frame of achievement of the goals of Ottawa Convention.

Thank you for attention!

