Mongolian Policy to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpileing, Production and Transfer of Anti- Personnel Mines an on their Destruction (Second Review Conference of the Convention, 29 Nov-05 Dec, Cartagena, Colombia)

By Colonel L.Gantumur Leading officer at Management and Support the Division, General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces

Dear President, Ladies and Gentlemen, And participants

On behalf of Mongolian delegation, I would like to address my warm pleasure to dear President and GICHD for co-hosting this important activity and express our enjoyment for warm welcome to the Government of Colombia.

As a participant of the conference, I also like to thank all participants of the Cartagena summit and individuals who have been engaged such a humanitarian activity.

Mongolia fully supports the international community's effort and initiatives undertaken on the Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpile, Production and Transfer of APMs and on their destruction.

The Mongolian Government has paid a close attention to this process ever since its inception and since then it continuing to participate in international forums and workshops regularly.

However, Due to particular considerations related to our country, Mongolia has not joined the Convention and announced its step by step approach towards signing the Convention.

Since then, a numerous job have been done so far as our step by step approach.

In December 2006, The Mongolian Parliament adopted an amendment to the Law on State Secrecy to promote our transparency and place details regarding the number of stockpiled antipersonnel mines in the public domain and international organizations.

Also in August 2007, The government submitted a national transparency measures report, in accordance with Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty, in response to UN General Assembly Resolution 58/53 on a voluntarily basis.

In July 2009, Mongolia invited technical experts from GICHD Implementation Support Unit to investigate technical quality of our mine stocks.

By using this opportunity, I like to thank Implementation Support Unit of GICHD and mister Tollepson Eric for his great job by advising on possible cost parameters and mine destruction technology.

Also I like to announce that this year we have destroyed 100 APM and next year we will destroy another 100 APM to identify a good destruction technology which is environmentally friendly and cost effective to us.

As a future consideration, we drafted an interagency action plan to implement our step-by-step accession to the Mine Ban Treaty, which will coordinate ministries activity and to create legal, financial and technological foundation for it.

Also Ministry of defence has dratted an amendment to Law on explosive to promote our activity and control on explosives, mines, IED.

Finally, Mongolia considers its economic, technological and financial realities to implement the Convention and our country has very limited source to destroy stockpiled mines.

Therefore, we encourage cooperation, assistance and support from other country and international organizations.

At the end, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia let me express that Mongolia shall not transfer, acquire or place land mines and welcomes the aspirations of the Cartagena summit, which is an important event in assessing Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpile, Production and Transfer of APMs and on their destruction.

Thank you very much for attention.