

KYRGYZSTAN

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Kushchubekov, First Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
First Review Conference of State-parties of Convention of
prohibition landmines, Nairobi, 29 November – 3 December 2004**

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, let me express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Mwai Kibaki, the President of the Republic of Kenya, UN and International Committee of Red Cross for the invitation and wonderful organization of the Conference on such a burning and important topic as the problem of land mines.

I am sure that our present meeting will make its certain contribution to the matter of implementation of the Ottawa Convention and strengthening the stability and security in the world.

Dear Participants,

As you know, Kyrgyzstan is not a participant of this Convention. Along with speaking in favor of complete landmines ban, our country advocates step-by-step advance to this goal. As you well understand, joining such an important document requires that all states should perform all commitments on its implementation immediately and unconditionally. Together with this, being a young state with transitional economy, following the so-called transit path of its state establishment, Kyrgyzstan has no right to charge itself with the admittedly unfulfilled tasks, and first of all from military, financial and technical points of view.

I would also believe it important to note that Kyrgyzstan has never produced or exported landmines. All supplies that we have are left after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

At the same time, we express our readiness to work actively in this direction with the interested states and international organizations in the field of reducing the number of landmines, preparing engineering divisions, equipping them with relevant equipment, training cynologists service, and, what is more important, notifying the population.

The bright example of the cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and the international organizations on the land mines issue is the International Conference "Land Mines in Central Asia and CIS countries. Problems and Ways of Solution" held in November 2003 in Bishkek. It was organized with the collaboration of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the "International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War" - Kyrgyz Committee.

The last regional Conference in Dushanbe helped to establish much closer links with the organizations promoting humanitarian mines clearing. Particularly, we managed to start negotiations with Swiss Demining Foundation. We pin our big hopes on our cooperation with this organization and its mediatorial abilities to implement programs connected with anti-mines activity.

But we are certain that this potential is not enough and we express our hope for more active cooperation with other partners to discover new disarmament perspectives.

Dear Participants,

Today, the problems with mines clearing in Kyrgyzstan cannot be considered in perspective of demarcation and delimitation of neighbour countries borders issues. Unfortunately, we have to admit the fact that our boarder issues with some neighbour countries still remain unsettled. At the same time, this does not mean that we should not speak about those problems that do not assist to solve these issues as the regulation of

boarder issues, as we all know, is a rather complicated process and is NOT a one-day matter!

The special anxiety for Kyrgyzstan is remaining mined areas in boarder regions with the Republic of Uzbekistan. The cases with blowing up civilians in our region are still taking place.

As I mentioned earlier, OSCE Center in Bishkek and Swiss Demining Foundation prepared the propositions on implementation of the respective Project in the Kyrgyz Republic. The key objective of this Project is the investigation of the zones presenting mine danger, setting warning signs on mine danger, liquidation of mines and non-exploded ammunition, creation of evacuation system from places of mine danger in Kyrgyzstan. Also within the frames of the Project it is planned to establish two teams of speed response with the personnel from the representatives of the relevant force structures of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In its turn the government of the Kyrgyz Republic is ready to take an active part in its implementation.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to point that our official authority together with NGOs and International Committee of Red Cross is holding the respective informational-explanatory activity among the population in the boarder areas of Kyrgyzstan, marking dangerous places of the territory with special signs and distinguishing signals.

Dear Participants,

I am fully convinced that the authority of the international organizations and representatives of donor countries present at this meeting is fairly high and their assistance could be directed to the encouragement of the cooperation of the states to establish and maintain the measures and the regime of trust in the boarder areas, to the

development of close collaboration on the regional and inter-regional levels to provide well-being and prosperity of the states of the region.

Once again I would like to underline that the world free from mines remains our common goal. As we repeatedly say the way to its achievement should be for Kyrgyzstan realistic, step-by-step, providing the support of the necessary level of security and stability.

In conclusion, let me once again wish all of you success in the work of today exceptionally important event.

Thank you for your attention.