STATEMENT BY

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OF

THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ON AGENDA ITEM 90(X) ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

FIRST COMMITTEE
61ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

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Madam Chair

1. The convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their destruction has achieved tremendous progress towards the goals set by the Nairobi Action Plan.

2. The universalization of the Mine Ban Convention has received a welcome boost since the sixth meeting of the States parties, by the deposition of instruments of ratifications by Ukraine, Haiti, the Cook Islands and Brunei Darussalam. The Mine Ban Convention is now 151 states strong. That is good news indeed. The reports by the Democratic Republic of Congo and Latvia on their fulfillment of their stockpile destruction obligations is yet another step forward. In addition, the fulfillment of Article 5 obligations by Guatemala and Suriname gives us further cause to be optimistic.

Madam Chair,

3. The recent successes of the Mine Ban Convention should not, however, make us complacent. Members need to fast track the implementation of commitments towards realization of the conventions goals and ultimately towards a totally mine free world, so that our peoples can go about their everyday lives without the terrible prospect of risking the loss of life or limb.

4. States must also fulfill their obligations to assist those afflicted by landmines.

Madam Chair

5. The positive momentum created since Nairobi, through to the seventh meeting of States Parties just concluded in Geneva, should be sustained and accelerated. More efforts need to be
exerted to ensure full universalisation of the Convention. To this end assistance should be given also to member states entered in fulfilling their obligations in destroying stockpiled antipersonnel mines, as well as in mine clearance commitments.

Madam Chair,

6. In about two years time, the first deadlines for clearance of anti-personnel mines will be due. In this regard, the true test of the Mine Ban Convention will be in the manner requests for deadline extensions will be handled. States Parties will be called upon to honour the conventions tradition of international cooperation and transparency in dealing with requests for extensions, while remaining faithful to the conventions overall aim of ending for all people for all time, the senseless suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

7. In conclusion, we urge delegations to remember that the convention on the Prohibition of the use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction is a solid instrument based on basic humanitarian considerations. It seeks to rid the world of the barbaric and inhuman weapon that has had and continues to cause such devastating consequences on innocent people. *Kenya therefore strongly encourages members to adhere to the conventions obligations and urges all those States that have not acceded to the convention to do so.*

Thank you.