

ROK EOV on Anti-Personnel Landmines

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation would like to speak on draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.6, titled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction”.
2. As we have repeatedly emphasized on previous occasions, the Republic of Korea fully sympathizes with the spirit and objectives of the Ottawa Convention. We believe that this important Convention plays, and will continue to play, a central role in alleviating human suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines.
3. However, due to the unique security situation on the Korean Peninsula, we are compelled to give priority to our security concerns, and unable to accede to the Convention at this point. Therefore, we have abstained from voting on this draft resolution.
4. Nevertheless, we are no less concerned about the problem associated with anti-personnel mines and are committed to mitigating the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. The Republic of Korea is exercising a tight control over anti-personnel landmines and is enforcing an indefinite extension of the moratorium on their export. We have responded regularly to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) annual questionnaire, providing all relevant information on our landmine policies and activities.
5. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea has joined to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Amended Protocol II, under which we are actively participating in a range of discussions and activities to ensure only limited and responsible use of landmines. We also joined to Protocol V on explosive remnants of war (ERW), which has entered into force in Korea in July this year.
6. In addition, our government has contributed more than \$6.5 million since 1993 through relevant UN mine-action programmes such as the Thematic Trust Fund (TTF) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance (UNVTF), and the Iraq Trust Fund of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). Our government will continue to contribute to the international efforts for mine clearance and victim assistance.

Thank you.