

SINGAPORE'S EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION L.6 ON THE "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION" AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE, 63rd UNGA

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

1. I am taking the floor to explain my delegation's vote in favour of the draft resolution L. 6, entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction".
2. Singapore's position on anti-personnel landmines has been clear and open. Singapore supports and will continue to support all initiatives against indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines, especially when they are directed at innocent and defenseless civilians. With this in mind, Singapore declared a two-year moratorium in May 1996 on the export of anti-personnel landmines without self-neutralising mechanisms. In February 1998, Singapore expanded the moratorium to include all manner of anti-personnel landmines, not just those without self-neutralising mechanisms, and extended the moratorium indefinitely.
3. At the same time, like several other countries, Singapore firmly states that the legitimate security concerns and the right to self-defence of any state cannot be disregarded. A blanket ban on all types of anti-personnel landmines might therefore be counter-productive.

Mr Chairman,

4. Singapore supports international efforts to resolve the humanitarian concerns over anti-personnel landmines. We will continue to work with members of the international community towards finding a durable and truly global solution.

Thank you.