

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПРИ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ ПО РАЗОРУЖЕНИЮ
В ЖЕНЕВЕ

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MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE AUPRES
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A GENEVE

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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Geneva, 27 January 2005

Mr. President,

Today we would like to inform the Conference that on December 7, 2004 the President of the Russian Federation signed into law the Bill on Ratification by the Russian Federation of the Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Conventional Weapons. Thus, Russia has shown its full commitment to the solution of the "landmine" problem.

Ratification of the Amended Protocol II turned out to be quite a long process due to our responsible approach towards our obligations, and also due to necessity of a complicated interagency coordination.

Russia regards the Protocol as an effective mechanism with a proper balance of military interests and humanitarian concerns with respect to various types of landmines.

We believe that the Protocol provides for an optimal solution to a "landmine" problem and is realistic from the standpoint of its effective implementation. It unites both supporters of an immediate ban on antipersonnel landmines and those who advocate a step-by-step approach in reaching this objective. The Protocol did not lose its unique value after signing of the Ottawa Convention on comprehensive ban on APLs. In fact, it still is an important legal instrument which regulates relations of states and non-state actors in the area that covers handling of not only antipersonnel landmines but other types of mines as well, in particular AVLS.

Russia is interested in full materialization of the Protocol's potential. Broad opportunities that it provides must be converted into practical deeds.

Many things are to be done here. One of the major tasks for the international community is to take additional steps for universalization of the Protocol. A whole number of states, which are facing nowadays a complicated political and military situation, stay outside the Amended Protocol II. We stand up for cooperation with those states.

Mr. President,

I would like to emphasize that even prior to its ratification Russia fully complied with all provisions of the Amended Protocol II.

We implemented moratorium on exports of mines that did not meet the Protocol's requirements.

For more than nine years, the most dangerous types of mines, i.e. anti-personnel blast ones, have neither been developed, nor produced, nor supplied to our armed forces. Over 7 million anti-personnel mines have been destroyed in Russia and this work continues.

The Russian Federation actively develops new technologies of search, detection, marking and registration of mines, as well as their clearance, including removal and destruction. Annually, more than 100,000 explosive

ordnances of various types are cleared in Russia, including mines left since World War II.

There is a special course on the requirements of the Amended Protocol II in Russian military schools and academies. Officers are instructed on the rules of safe use of mines in full compliance with its provisions.

The armed forces have worked out and introduced special regulations on constructing mine and explosive obstacles in conformity with provisions of the Protocol. Every year training for officers of engineer troops is organized to study the provisions of the international humanitarian law and of the Protocol requirements.

A special interagency comprehensive programme of organizational and technical measures for detection and destruction of explosive devices has been adopted in Russia.

We have a rich experience in combating improvised explosive devices that are widely used by terrorists. We are ready to cooperate with all interested states and organizations in this area.

Mr. President,

The Russian Federation shares the concern of the international community about irresponsible use of antipersonnel mines. The ratification of the Amended Protocol II proves that. Mine-free world remains our goal.

We support in principle the idea of joining the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction. But it can be done only when we find ourselves capable to fulfill our obligations.

As we have already reiterated, progress towards mine-free world should be realistic, phased and based on maintaining the necessary level of stability. Amended Protocol II plays an important role in this progress. That is why we support its further strengthening and universalization.