

Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention: Second Review Conference

29 Nov.-04 Dec., 2009, Cartagena, Colombia

*Statement by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Nepal, Delegate of Nepal, under agenda item 9 c:
Universalization of the Convention*

Madam President,

I would like to congratulate you on your appointment to the President of this conference. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the government and the people of Colombia for the warm welcome and kind hospitality extended to us. The delegation of Nepal would like to take the floor to present a brief account of the Mine Action activities in Nepal.

The Government of Nepal has established an inter-ministerial Steering Committee and a National Mine Action Technical Committee to take responsibilities of all policy as well as implementation matters relating to mine action. A separate Mine Action Unit has recently been established in the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to coordinate mine action activities as a focal point for mine action. Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre is specifically involved in demining activities.

Within a period of 3 years since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord in November 2006, Nepal has already cleared 17 out of a total of 53 minefields within the country with the support from the UN. Likewise, 105 out of a total of 274 known IED fields have also been cleared within this period. Nepal has developed its capacity to carry out demining activities independently and has planned to clear all of the remaining mine and IED fields within coming two years.

The government has run a conflict victim support program that provides medical treatment for the victims, financial support packages to the dependant families of the persons deceased due to conflict, educational support to the children of deceased persons and the persons with disabilities. Nepal Army runs a well established rehabilitation centre which is open to the civilians as well. The government has planned to establish five more rehabilitation centers to cover all the regions of the country. Several international and national NGOs are also involved in victim assistance.

The MRE includes some systematic MRE coverage and a good level of emergency response. UNMAT and UNICEF along with a group of international and national NGOs are involved in MRE. The Ministry of Education is closely associated with MRE efforts to carry out MRE through schools. In addition, Nepal Army, Nepal Police and the Armed Police Force are also involved in MRE activities.

The Mine Action Steering Committee recently formed a taskforce to develop a national mine action plan of action for coming 2 years. After its adoption by the Steering Committee, this plan will lead to a more systematic intervention in mine action with more coordinated and synchronized actions of all mine action actors within the country.

All these endeavors are in line with the spirit of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. Nepal is fully committed to the humanitarian objectives of the Convention. We are always in favor of a mine-free world.

Thank you.

01 December 2009