Statement delivered by the GICHDBrMeeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW
MOTAPM/AVM
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Thank you Mr Chair,

In 2014, the GICHD and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) conducted a thorough study on the humanitarian and developmental impact of AVMs, in an effort to gather new and complement available evidence. The report was presented at last year’s Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW.

Since then, the GICHD and SIPRI have continued to gather data on AVM incidents, both from field programmes and through a detailed media review. We launched an interactive map of AVM incidents last August, which is now updated regularly and can be accessed on our website.

The GICHD and SIPRI are grateful to the many national authorities and organisations which have provided feedback so far. We will endeavour to continue these efforts in the coming year. In addition, we envisage to focus more specifically on the costs of AVM contamination on humanitarian aid organisations. The valuable discussions during the informal meeting on AVMs co-organised last Friday together with UNODA and UNMAS have further confirmed the need to raise more awareness on the humanitarian and development cost of AVMs.

I would like to briefly share with you a preliminary analysis of data compiled between January and September 2015.

From 1 January to 30 September 2015, 137 incidents related to anti-vehicle mines in 24 countries and territories, resulting in 491 casualties (232 killed, 259 injured) were recorded. However, this is only a rough indication of the impact of AVMs: the actual
casualty figures are likely to be significantly higher. Nevertheless, the recorded casualties for the first nine months of 2015 indicate a sharp increase compared to 2013 data when 212 casualties from 13 countries/territories were reported over 12 months (2013 was the last year with consolidated figures).

While some parts of the increase in preliminary casualty figures can be explained by more comprehensive data collection, collected data however also suggest that ongoing or protracted conflicts, such as in Ukraine (73 casualties in 14 recorded accidents to date), Yemen (49 casualties in 13 recorded incidents to date) or Mali (71 casualties in 17 recorded incidents to date) led to a higher level of incidents and new casualties.

Incidents were reported in Angola, Chad, Cyprus, DRC, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Libya, Morocco (excl. Western Sahara) Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, and Tunisia.

On average, an incident results in 3.5 casualties. The most severe incident thus far was recorded in April in Mali involving a civilian bus and causing 32 casualties.

Of the 137 recorded incidents from January-September 2015, more than half involved civilian casualties (74 accidents), followed by those affecting national security personnel such as national military, police or border guards (32 incidents). Peacekeepers accounted for 7% (9 incidents) and international security forces for 4% of reported incidents (4 in total). The remaining incidents involved humanitarian personnel (1).

Thank you Mr Chair.