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Statement

By
H.E. Mr. Mohammad Al-Allaf
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

at
The Permanent Mission

of
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the
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Over the past three decades around one million victims have fallen prey to landmines. Today it is estimated that there are 500,000 mine survivors, 80% of which are civilians. The humanitarian price of these indiscriminate weapons and their continuous and latent danger remains too high even as the numbers of victims gradually decrease as a result of the implementation of the Convention. More therefore needs to be done to address the humanitarian problems caused by landmines and in order to rid the world from these indiscriminate weapons and spare people from falling prey to their cruelty and inhumaneness.

Today, in the humanitarian efforts to rid the world from landmines and their inhumane consequences, it is important that the international community continues to work towards attaining the universality of the convention and to mobilize and provide more resources for landmine-clearance operations and rehabilitation of victims. This is vital for many Member States since such assistance remains of utmost importance if they are to live up to their obligations under the Convention.

Jordan attaches great importance to the attainment of the universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Mine Ban Convention) and is active in trying to bring about its universality specifically at the regional level. As a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, Jordan has taken effective steps to comply with the Convention’s provisions. Having completely destroyed all its stockpiles of anti-personnel mines in 2003, Jordan had sincerely hoped that it would be able to satisfy its treaty
obligations by May 2009 and would not have to submit a request for an extension to its Article 5 deadline.

In November of last year, Jordan had the honour of hosting the eighth Meeting of the States parties to the Mine Ban Convention at the Dead Sea. This November, the coming 9th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention will be held in Geneva, Switzerland. Jordan looks forward to a successful outcome of this meeting.

Jordan reiterates its commitment to the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (POA), and welcomes the outcome of the third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS-3) which provided an opportunity to consider progress in the implementation of this program.

The illicit trade in SALW remains a matter of grave concern due to its potential to disrupt peace, security and development. The fact that such illicit activity is most often linked with trans-national organized crime, terrorism and narcotics trafficking poses enormous additional threats on states and regions. As a result, combating this illicit trade and its grave and devastating consequences necessitates a collective and concerted international and regional response.

In this regard, the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (POA) is the framework for our collective response to the problem posed by the illicit trade of these weapons and should be implemented. Here,
Jordan stresses the importance of providing technical, technological and financial assistance to states requesting it in order to strengthen the full implementation of the PoA.

The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) is one of the principal instruments of International Humanitarian Law. It has proven its credibility and capacity to respond in an adequate and responsible manner to the humanitarian challenge posed by certain advancements in weapons technology. Despite the important humanitarian aims enshrined in the CCW however, it has not yet gained universality. Jordan therefore reiterates the importance of achieving universal adherence to this Convention and appeals to all States that have not done so to become parties to the Convention in this important international legal instrument as soon as possible.

This session, Jordan has joined Sweden, the main sponsor of the draft, Greece and the Netherlands in sponsoring the draft resolution on the CCW. Jordan hopes that the resolution as in previous years will be also adopted without a vote.
Introduction of Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.6 entitled Implementation of the Convention of the Prohibition and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction

Last year, Jordan had the honor to host and to preside the 8th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction. I am glad to say that the meeting was successful. It is in Jordan’s capacity, as President of the 8th Meeting of the States Parties that my delegation would like to introduce the draft resolution on the Mine Ban Convention which appears in document A/C.1/63/L.6 under agenda item 89(x).

Following the consultations on the draft resolution, Jordan tabled the draft on behalf of the Troika of presidents of states parties to the Mine Ban Convention which this year represents Australia Jordan and Switzerland. The draft was not opened for co-sponsorship. As you recall, last year it was decided that the resolution had reached a certain maturity and would be presented by Troika from then on. This decision coincided the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the convention.

The importance of this resolution cannot be underestimated. The humanitarian cause it seeks to address is indispensable and is of the highest humanitarian value as it seeks to protect civilians from these deadly weapons and to rehabilitate those who survive.
This year the resolution reaffirms once again the determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, and addresses the challenges of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and to assure their destruction. It also stresses the need to ensure assistance for the care and rehabilitation of mine victims.

The changes made to the resolution for this session are only procedural and technical in nature, and update this year's draft in line with the progress made in the work undertaken to implement the Convention since last sessions.

The draft notes with satisfaction the work undertaken to implement the Convention and the substantial progress made towards addressing the global anti-personnel landmine problem. It also recalls the eighth meeting of the States parties to the Convention, held at the Dead Sea from 18 to 22 November 2007, at which the international community monitored progress on implementation of the Convention and supported continued application of the Nairobi Action Plan 2005–2009 and established priorities to achieve further progress towards ending, for all people and for all time, the suffering caused by antipersonnel mines.

The draft in the operative part among many invites States that have not signed the Convention to accede to it, and those States that have signed but have not ratified it to do so. It also stresses the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Convention, including through the continued implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan. It renews its call
upon all States and other relevant parties to work together to promote, support and advance the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims, mine risk education programmes and the removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines placed or stockpiled throughout the world.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation hopes the draft will receive the support it rightly deserves as it did in previous sessions. My delegation also requests Member States that are not parties to the Mine Ban convention to consider supporting the resolution bearing in mind its humanitarian values and objectives.