



FSC.DEL/64/11
10 March 2011

ENGLISH only

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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
VIENNA

Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Albania,
as delivered by Ambassador Spiro Koci
at the 638th Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
9 March 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,

I would like to draw your attention to the United Nation's disarmament conference held in Geneva on 1 March 2011. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania addressed this Conference in his capacity as President of the tenth meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mine and on their Destruction, also known as the Ottawa Convention.

The Disarmament Conference coincided with the 12 anniversary of the entry into force of the Ottawa Convention. It has since been confirmed as one of the most successful disarmament instruments in history; enabling its 156 States to take effective collective measures in order to maintain international peace and security.

Albania has assumed the Presidency of the Ottawa Convention as of 1 December 2010 and will preside over the tenth meeting of the State Parties to the Convention until 29 November 2011.

The priorities of Albania's Presidency include, *inter alia*, victim's assistance and universalization of the Convention. These are key pillars of the Convention, as well as main challenges that lie ahead of the State Parties in the process of fulfilling the ultimate aims of the Convention.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the Albanian Presidency to continue working with all State Parties and redouble efforts in order to face these challenges and achieve the common goals set by the Ottawa Convention.

The address of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania will be distributed electronically to all participating States.

I thank you.