



**STATEMENT**  
**On the Role of Mine Action in all Phases of the Conflict Cycle** ENGLISH only

**Delivered by Delegation of Armenia at the at the 888<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum for  
Security Cooperation  
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The delegation of Armenia would like to join others and welcome our guests to this Forum and thank them for the comprehensive presentation.

The issue of mine action has been and remain under attention of the Armenian Government. On national basis Armenia has introduced a number of initiatives for humanitarian demining and public awareness. At the beginning of 2011 the Government of Armenia with the assistance of its international partners established a civilian “Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise” state non-commercial organization. The main aim of this Center is to conduct demining activities, identify and remove the placed but unexploded mines and ordnance, raise public awareness, develop a programme for the utilization, destruction and conservation of expired or non-effective arms and ammunition, provide expertise conclusion on export control of military goods.

Taking this opportunity we would like to commend the work of the OSCE Office in Yerevan which supported humanitarian demining projects in Armenia. Raising awareness among children including through animation is a truly humanitarian endeavor as it protects the most vulnerable group of population. We fully share the idea mentioned by Ambassador Lovrenčić that mine action is not about the mines, but humanity. However, in the environment where conflict perception prevailed over the sense of common humanity, OSCE engagement was not discontinued. Challenges still remain. Four regions of Armenia, namely Syunik, Tavush, Gegarkunik and Vayots Dzor still face risk of explosive remnants. The overall size of the affected territory is 17 000 000 sq.m, with some 35 thousand people living on the affected territory.

Although not being a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction due to certain regional circumstances, Armenia nevertheless perceive it as one of the instruments for elimination of such a hazardous and excessively injurious category of weapons as landmines.

It is not a secret that there are regions in the OSCE area where difficulties still exist with the implementation of de-mining projects. Armenia has expressed on many occasions its willingness to accede to the Ottawa Convention, as well as the Convention on Certain

Conventional Weapons, which is contingent upon readiness of other countries of the region to adhere to these Conventions and comply with their regime. Unfortunately, rigid and non-constructive position of some regional states does not allow for the optimism in this issue. We believe that accession to the Ottawa Convention and its implementation in good faith could save many lives of military personnel, children and other civilians and therefore promote confidence and trust, in particular in conflict situations.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to stress the special needs of protection for people living in conflict areas, which are most contaminated by explosive remnants of war. International community should undertake more efforts to address this issue, threatening safety and security of these people and their right to life. We would like to refer to the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/75 of 7 December 2017 On Assistance in Mine Action, which has recognized special needs of people living in conflict areas.

In conclusion we would like to reiterate our readiness to continue cooperation with the OSCE and other international partners in the field of mine action.

Thank you.