

**Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention
Geneva, 2nd to 5th December 2014**

**Intervention by the Czech Republic on Assisting the victims and Clearing mined areas
(Agenda Items 11a and 11b)**

Mr. Chairman,

Whereas I take the floor for the first time, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment and to assure you of the support of my delegation. The Czech Republic fully subscribes to the statements by the European Union delivered earlier, thus I may limit my intervention to bringing about only a fresh piece of information on the assistance efforts of the Czech Republic under APLC.

Last week, the Government of the Czech Republic allocated a sum of CZK 425000 to support demining activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The contribution is right now being transferred via the ITF Enhancing Human Security in Ljubljana that will make use of it against the two respective projects: mine clearance activities on the project Mramorje Zalice in municipality Lopare, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the project “The Voice of Mine Victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina” implemented by the NGO HOPE '87.

This new contribution represents a follow-up to already long-standing engagement of the Czech Republic in demining activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where – while matching funds with other donors, namely Belgium and the United States of America – more than 200000 square meters of previously contaminated area has been released and a few tens of mines as well as UXOs cleared. Moreover, the Czech Republic belongs to most dedicated donors of ITF providing almost 1.4 million USD throughout the period 1999 – 2012 to support its international projects in many parts of the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.