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**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Security Council Arria Formula Meeting**

“Safeguarding Lives, Sustaining Peace: Enhancing Mine Action  
for Stabilization, Protection, Recovery, and Inclusion”

**Statement of Poland**

**New York, 12 December 2024**

*Mr. Chair,*

Poland would like to thank Japan for convening this very much needed meeting. We would also like to express our appreciation to the briefers for their insightful remarks.

Poland shares the view that a continuous support for mine action is necessary at the global level. Our engagement in mine action stems from Poland's priorities on the multilateral fora, in particular our engagement in defending and promoting rules-based international order, international humanitarian law, and the respect for human rights.

As the EU facilitator of the biannual UN General Assembly resolution dedicated to assistance in mine action, Poland has demonstrated its commitment to promoting collective efforts to seek solutions to the problem of complete clearance of land mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), in line with the Ottawa Convention. For many years, Poland has been supporting the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) actions through voluntary contributions, in particular the UNMAS Gaza Emergency Response.

We are also assisting Ukraine in humanitarian demining, which has become one of the countries most contaminated with land mines and ERW in the world. Mines left behind by the Russians are a major threat to civilians, including children. It is also a danger for humanitarian actors to provide assistance in a secure way.

We are convinced that mine action serves as an indispensable instrument in stabilization and peacebuilding. It contributes to safe return of displaced populations and the reconstruction of local communities, which increases chances for building a long-lasting peace.

Yet, traditional demining methods have become insufficient in the face of dynamically changing threats, including IEDs. This requires adaptation and continuous development of new technologies and operational procedures. We should also enhance partnerships with local authorities and NGOs.

Poland underlines the leading role of the UN in fostering worldwide efforts in mine action and emphasize the role humanitarian demining plays in post conflict contexts, reconstruction and paving the way to social and economic recovery.

However, despite a number of success stories globally, many States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention are lagging behind with achieving targets related to mine clearance by the end of 2025.

In face of conflicts and crises, Poland sees a practical value in close coordination among actors of the mine action community. The UN and the EU both have special roles to play in this great endeavor.

As a proponent, together with the United Kingdom, of the UN Security Council resolution 2475 (2019) on protection of persons with disabilities in conflict, Poland calls for greater responsiveness to the needs and rights of people with disabilities in recovery and reconstruction, who are very often survivors of land mines, ERW, and IEDs.

It is also essential that mine action community applies a “gender lens” as part of an inclusive approach to planning, implementing, and monitoring operations. In our view, women and girls are key to recovery and reconstruction in areas where landmines and other explosive ordnance threaten lives and livelihoods. Improving women’s participation at all levels of humanitarian mine action – from affected communities, to operations, to national and international frameworks – must remain a priority.

Last year, Poland completed the implementation of its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The main focus has been put on activities for greater participation of women in the broadly understood security sector, increasing the number of women in uniformed services and in peacekeeping missions and operations.

Let me conclude by stressing that Poland is convinced that mine action is essential in assisting communities affected by conflicts in regaining safe and dignified lives.

*Thank you.*