

**ICBL Statement on Universalization
Intersessional Meetings to the Mine Ban Treaty, 22-24 June 2021**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We remain alarmed by the ongoing casualties and suffering caused by the use of antipersonnel mines, including of those of an improvised nature, by Myanmar and non-state armed groups in Afghanistan, Colombia, Tunisia, Myanmar and Pakistan. We are still verifying whether any antipersonnel mines have been used and on what scale during the recent conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. To follow up on what the Philippines just pointed out, States must strongly condemn all use by anyone and do everything they can to put an end to all use.

Mr. President.

There are still 33 countries remaining outside of the treaty. We note that most of them comply with its key provisions. While this is a clear demonstration of their support to the vision of a mine-free world and the purposes of the treaty, it is not enough. We urge all states to accede to the treaty without further delay and we call on the Marshall Islands, the only signatory, to ratify the Mine Ban treaty as soon as possible. We welcome the updates shared yesterday by states not party Armenia, Azerbaijan, Morocco and the Republic of Korea on their accession process and we encourage them to join the treaty without delay. We welcome actions taken by the UK on universalization.

We appreciate your efforts Mr President, in bringing universalization back as a priority by including it on the agenda of the coordination committee and conducting meaningful bilateral meetings with several states not party.

This year, the ICBL and its members continued their efforts to promote universalization in: Azerbaijan, India, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore and the US. We have also started promoting universalization through the Universal Periodic Review mechanism at the Human Rights Council, and five states not party: Georgia, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar and Nepal have received recommendations on accession to the Mine Ban Treaty so far, and we hope they accept them. We encourage other States Parties to keep the treaty vibrant and to interpret and implement actions 11 and 12 of the Oslo Action Plan in the most ambitious way.

In the last mile towards the treaty's full universalization we need to be bold and coordinated. We need to develop a comprehensive, targeted strategy in which the Presidency, States Parties, including donor states, the ICRC and civil society work together. The Universalization Special envoys must be re-activated and engaged in these efforts. Each state not party requires a targeted and tailored approach, if we don't use all the available resources and tools that we have strategically, and we continue business as usual, it is unlikely we will have any new State Parties in a near future.

I thank you Mr. President