



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Intersessional Meetings of the **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Statement on Universalization

Geneva, 20 May 2016

Delivered by Gustavo Laurie, Political Affairs Officer, Geneva office, UNMAS

Madam President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising 14 United Nations entities¹ involved in mine action.

The United Nations welcomes the intervention by Sri Lanka regarding the approval by its Cabinet of Ministers to join the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention; it trusts that this will lead to its accession very soon. The United Nations encourages other States that have still not joined this Convention, especially those affected by anti-personnel mines, to also consider their accession to this important instrument of international humanitarian law.

The report of the Secretary-General ahead of the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit highlighted the unacceptable impact of mines and explosive remnants of war on civilians and stressed the need for States to become parties to, and implement and comply with, relevant international humanitarian instruments. The United Nations calls upon States Parties to ensure consistency with their obligations under the APMBC and thus, actively encourages them at the World Humanitarian Summit to commit to the universalization and full implementation of the APMBC, as well as to the other international legal frameworks for mine action.

Madam President,

The Secretary-General highlighted again universalization in his message on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April. On that occasion, in States not party to the APMBC, the United Nations advocated for universalization through creative means. In Lebanon, for example, UNDP mobilized its

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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country office network to commemorate the International Day with songs against mines, MRE messages to communities, and a massive bike tour around Beirut.

In Myanmar, UNICEF organized an event together with the Government, members of the Mine Risk Working Group and other partners, where all pledged to improve the situations of landmine victims in the country and advocated for a Myanmar free of mines.

Madam President,

Finally, please note that since the designation by the Secretary-General of Mr. Daniel Craig as the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, the United Nations has been provided with additional platforms to advocate for a world free of mines.

Thank you.