



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention
(Co-Chairs: Bulgaria and New Zealand)
Geneva, 27 May 2013**

**Intervention on Universalization
Delivered by UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

Thank you Mister Co-Chair,

I deliver the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising the 14 United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

The United Nations reaffirms the views of States Parties and continues to use all possible opportunities to promote the universalization of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. In his message on the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April), the Secretary-General called for universal adherence to this Convention, as well as to the CCM, CCW Protocol V and CRPD, in addition to highlighting the need for increased support for mine action. The Universalization process is also one of the key objectives of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018. Through the Strategic Objective 4, the United Nations reaffirms that it will advocate for the universalization and implementation of mine action conventions.

Recent reports of the use of anti-personnel mine underscore the need to redouble international efforts to achieve a mine free world. The United Nations also acknowledge that there are still mine-affected countries that have not yet become States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention. We would strongly encourage and support their efforts to be bound by the Convention as soon as possible.

We congratulate Poland for their accession to the Convention and hope more will follow in the coming months.

The United Nations acknowledges the fact that landmines are also a threat when used and/or possessed by Non-State Actors (NSA). Therefore, the United Nations continues to support efforts aimed at eliciting commitments by NSA to a mine ban and to mine action, including notably the work done by the Geneva Call.

We thank the kind words of the delegation of Belgium regarding the Universalization efforts of the United Nations and take the opportunity to recall that those efforts also involve the active participation of our UN colleagues in the field.

Thank you.