

**Although Palau is not a state party yet to the Ottawa Convention, it is none the less committed to the Convention and has obligated itself to refrain from acts which would defeat the Convention's objectives and purpose.**

**Palau intends to ratify the Ottawa Convention in the nearer future and therefore commits itself to conform to the Convention's terms.**

**Whether Palau is a state party or not, the Ottawa Convention is an international customary law and Palau views itself as binded by the Convention.**

**Palau takes this opportunity to urge members of the Pacific Islands Forum, whom are not state party yet, to join the Convention at the earliest time possible. We look forward to working with you to this end during the upcoming first Pacific Islands Regional Workshop on the Ottawa Convention to be held in Vanuatu early next month.**

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman.**