Republic of the Philippines
Statement before the Ottawa Treaty Standing Committee
on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
Geneva, 6 June 2008

The Philippine Delegation wishes to express its appreciation and congratulations to the
Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its successful hosting of the 8th Meeting of
Ottawa Treaty States Parties last year, and to the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian
Demining for its continuing support to the Mine Ban Treaty’s Meetings of Standing Committees.
Our Delegation also wishes to thank Germany and Kenya for their able Co-Chairmanship of the
past week’s Meetings on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, and the Co-
Chairmen of our other Meetings as well for their fine work.

We would like to take this opportunity to assure fellow delegates and the Mine Ban Community as
a whole that the Philippines, while not being a possessor or user of landmines, recognizes and
honors its commitments under the Ottawa Treaty. We will in due course update our reporting as
per Article 7 of the Treaty, and will continue to work closely with our legislators in passing national
legislation implementing the Treaty in the Philippines.

Our delegation would like to commend the tireless and invaluable work of the International and
Philippine Mine Ban Civil Society Community in advancing Treaty goals. The Philippines views
progress made in the Mine Ban arena as an important element of the global disarmament,
humanitarian and development agendas, with inherent complementarities with the Geneva
Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and the recently-concluded draft Convention on
Cluster Munitions (CCM). The Philippines looks forward to the future development of a inter-treaty
regime interface mechanism between the Ottawa Treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional
Weapons (CCW) and the CCM.

The Philippine Delegation would also like to highlight an important dividend of our work, namely
engagement with Non-State Actors and Armed Groups (NSAs / NSAGs). A new and significant
initiative is the development of a new instrument for NSAGs, namely the “Rebel Group Declaration
of Adherence to the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) on Landmines” which has already been
signed by three Philippine communist rebel groups. Developed by the Philippine Campaign to Ban
Landmines (PCEL), the new Declaration expands the scope of past commitments to encompass
four major IHL sources, namely (a) the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, (b) the 1996 CCW Amended Protocol
II on Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, (c) the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive
Remnants of War (ERW) and (d) the 2005 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Study
on Customary IHL Rules on Landmines.

The Philippine Delegation wishes to applaud the progress made thus far in our global campaign,
but also recognizes that we all need to continue to exert even more vigorous effort to realize our
dream of a world free from the evil of landmines.