

Philippine Statement

Delivered by Minister Jesus S. Domingo

Perm. Mission of the Philippines to the UN, Geneva

Ottawa Convention Standing Committee Meetings (25-29 May 2009)

Discussion on Article 9 (National Implementation Measures)

Geneva, 29 May 2009

Mr. Co-Chairman, the Philippine delegation would like to thank you, your fellow Co-Chairmen, the Bureau, and the Secretariat - the ISU and GICHD, for your excellent conduct and organization of our Ottawa Convention Standing Committee Meetings. The Philippines has the honor to report on the latest developments with respect to its Ottawa Convention national activities.

At the onset, the Philippine Delegation would like to recognize and thank the invaluable role of the APLMC Community in advancing the Ottawa Convention, particularly the GICHD, UNMAS, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Landmine Action, Landmine Monitor, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), Geneva Call and our other friends. We would also like to acknowledge the mutually re-inforcing efforts between and among the landmine, cluster munitions and small arms disarmament communities, leading to the successful conclusion of the Oslo Convention. We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Henri Dunant Center, the Cluster Munitions Coalition, IANSA, and our other friends. We would also like to highlight the work of the Philippine branches of the "family", the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL), the Philippine Campaign to Ban Cluster Munitions and the PHILANSA.

The contributions of donor countries with regard to conventional arms activities is deeply appreciated, particularly those projects in the Philippines supported by the European Union and Commission, Canada and Australia.

The Philippines is proceeding in earnest with the passage of its implementing legislation. In the Philippine Congress, intensive deliberations are ongoing with regard to our draft APLMC implementing law, involving all concerned stakeholders, government, military and civil society. Our delegation would like to acknowledge the invaluable role of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL), who have been instrumental in helping to craft the draft law and in providing expert testimony in our Congressional hearings. It is hoped that our law will pass before the next round of national elections to be held in May 2010.

The Philippines is also working closely with the FSD and the Philippine-UN White Helmets for the establishment of a peacebuilding and humanitarian training center in Mindanao, in the Southern Philippines. A wonderful dividend of our advocacy and technical work in the Ottawa Community is that it supports broader disarmament, peace process, peacebuilding and humanitarian activity, as exemplified by the Philippine-FSD project.

The Philippines also welcomes the planned verification mission of Geneva Call to look into the alleged Deed of Commitment violations of an Armed Non-State Actor in the Philippines.

With regard to advancing the dialogue on "Mine Action and Development", the Philippines applauds the synergies and dynamism between (a) our landmine, cluster munitions, small arms, military, law enforcement and other peace stakeholders and (b) our development community. Collaboration among these stakeholders as a means to help advance socio-economic development is an important thrust of the Philippine Government, we intend to highlight this relationship as a theme in our planned hosting of the next Southeast Asia-Pacific Meeting of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development which is scheduled for February 2010 in Manila.

Mr. Co-Chairman, the Philippines would also like to express its fullest support to the Governments of Colombia and Norway, as, respectively, the Host and President of the Cartagena Review Conference, in the Road to Cartagena.

Thank you. Mr. Co-Chairman.