

**"THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING,
PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONEL MINES AND ON
THEIR DESTRUCTION"**

2 to 5 December 2103, Geneva

**Statement by
His Excellency Denis Y. Lepatan
Charge d' Affaires, a.i. and
Deputy Permanent Representative
Philippine Mission in Geneva**

His Excellency Boudjemâa Delmi
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mr President,

On this important occasion, the Philippine delegation is pleased to join the assembled states in expressing full support for the Anti-Personnel Mines (APM) Convention. The Philippines' presence at this major event is a concrete affirmation of the enduring commitment of the Philippine Government to the tenets and humanitarian thrust of the APM Convention.

It is heartening to note that the APM Convention has steadily gained support through the years. The Philippine Government signed the APM Convention on 3 December 1997 and ratified it on 15 February 2000.

The Philippines wishes to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the APLMC Implementation Support Unit, International Campaign to Ban Landmines/Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL/PCBL), the International Committee of the Red Cross/Philippine Red Cross (ICRC/PRC), Geneva Call, the Swiss Foundation for Demining (FSD), Landmine Monitor and Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) in drawing attention to the need for concerted international action to move the APM process forward.

Mr. President,

As an active player in the Ottawa process that culminated in the landmark APM Convention, the Philippines welcomes this opportunity to assess the progress that has been attained since the 2009 Cartagena Summit, specifically in the implementation of key targets identified in the Cartagena Action Plan for 2010 to 2014.

The international community is at a pivotal moment as this meeting of states parties is the final phase before the Third Review Conference to review the overall implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan in 2014. The Philippines considers it of utmost importance to fast-track collective efforts in addressing the critical issue of resource mobilization as this will have a major impact on international cooperation and assistance in the long term especially in the areas of APM destruction, mine clearance and victim assistance. The Philippines upholds the view that sustainable progress can only be attained if bilateral and international cooperation partnerships are strengthened.

Mr. President,

The Philippine Government continues to view with grave concern the indiscriminate deployment of landmines by non-State actors in its territory. To date, the Armed Forces of the Philippines- Munitions Control Center (AFP-MCC) has reported 14 incidents of landmine explosions perpetrated by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) which have victimized military personnel, law enforcement officials and innocent civilians. In these incidents where there were 24 fatalities and 64 injured, improvised anti-personnel landmines were deployed.

Aside from supporting a total ban on the use of landmines, the Philippines also sees the important need and urgency to address the indiscriminate use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by NSAGs, whose actions continue to exact a heavy toll not only on government forces but also on civilians. As the Philippine Government fully supports the promotion of International Humanitarian Law, it expects NSAGs to uphold the APM Convention as well.

Philippines' Adherence to Article 7 of the Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention

As its commitment to the APM Convention, the Philippines annually submits its compliance report pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention.

The AFP-MCC also regularly conducts Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training and bomb threat prevention seminars annually for military and civilian personnel. In addition, the military and police have their respective Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units deployed in areas of armed conflict to undertake proper disposal of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) after the occurrence of armed hostilities.

Mr. President,

The Philippines hopes that this meeting will provide the needed impetus and momentum to promote greater support for enhanced international partnership and capacity building in bolstering the implementation of the APM Convention.

Thank you.