

13MSP on APMB
02-06 December 2013
Geneve

M. b

Republic of Palau Interventions by
Ms. Eunice Akiwo

11e: Consideration of the General Status and Operation of the Convention: Implementation Support

As it is Palau's first to address the floor, Palau commends the 12 MSP President Ambassador Kovacic for a successful year and to congratulate the 13MSP President Ambassador Delmi for diligently guiding our discussion.

Palau shares with this forum that smaller developing affected States highly depend on the support from the AP Mine Ban Implementation Support Unit. Palau has benefited greatly from the ISU's expert advice on the approach it is taking to address its UXO problems, drawing from the Convention's experience in dealing with anti-personnel mines.

Palau wishes to thank the Australian Government and ISU for its enhanced effort to support the pursuit of the aims of the Convention. With the enhanced funding support from Australia to the ISU, Palau's participation in the Convention is possible.

Palau appeals to all States Parties to continue to support the ISU's work plan and budget regardless of any decisions taken at the Third Review Conference. The ISU will continue to be important to Palau and to the Convention as a whole.

Thank you Mr. President.

11b: Mine Clearance

Thank you Mr. President for the floor.

Palau takes this opportunity to thank its donors for being instrumental in making mine clearance possible and successful in Palau. At the moment, two (2) mine clearance operators are working to clear Palau of the varieties of UXO and ERW, including land and sea mines. Since 2009 to date, Palau has located, identified, removed and destroyed 29,000 UXO and ERW, which includes land and sea mines.

Palau's direction and commitment to clear these harmful items from our lands and oceans have continued to gain interest from affected states in the Pacific, in which have strengthen Palau's initiative with the Pacific Island Leaders Dialogue and Commitment.

Palau was privileged to have hosted the third (3rd) Pacific Region ERW Workshop to develop and promote technical and operational solutions to address the challenges related to mine clearance in the Pacific region, both on land and underwater. The Workshop was assisted by the Geneva International Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) with funding support from the United State. The Workshop discussion and presentation focused on:

- The relevance of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS);
- Draft IMAS on underwater demining;
- Appropriate methods and techniques in demining operations in the Pacific;
- National capacity development support; and
- Information Management as a key feature of an efficient and effective mine action program.

The Workshop enabled the Palau UXO National Advisory Committee to understand available international standards and to discuss with experts on best possible approach for Palau to further organize its UXO National Advisory Committee, to build national capacity and to increase ownership of Palau's mine clearance programs. In addition to the above mentioned, an informal Pacific contact group was initiated during the Workshop to support coordination on mine clearance effort, available expertise and donor support in the Pacific.

Thank you Mr. President.