



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

13th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on Universalizing the Convention

Agenda item 11 (d)

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Delivered by UNMAS

on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprised of the United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

In his latest report on Assistance in Mine Action, the UN Secretary-General, depositary of this Convention, said “*With each ratification (..) more lives are saved, and more countries enjoy increased stability and security*”, (A/68/305). In this spirit, the members of the IACG-MA warmly congratulate Poland for depositing its instrument of ratification becoming the 161st State Party to the Convention.

It is only through universalization and full implementation that we can guarantee that the world will be free from anti-personnel landmines.

Universalization is a key strategic objective of the United Nations Strategy on Mine Action 2013-2018, whereby we commit to advocate for the universal accession, adherence and implementation of mine action related international humanitarian instruments.

Also, given the importance of the convention in protecting the millions of people living in post-conflict environments through its obligations on countries to clear contaminated land, it is as equally clear that efforts require a global commitment to address the socio-economic consequences of landmine contamination, including support to Millennium Development Goals.

The upcoming Third Review Conference presents an opportunity to advance universalization, and the members of the IACG-MA join the Secretary-General’s call for the 36 states not yet party to join this important convention without delay. In this regard, the presence of non-State parties in this week’s meeting is very much welcome.

The United Nations is also grateful for the expertise and support brought to this meeting by non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations.

Efforts made to elicit commitments by non-state armed groups to mine action are important, and we would like to acknowledge the contributions of the organizations working in this regard.

We would like to share the deep concern of the Secretary-General regarding the allegation and confirmation of use of anti-personnel mines and join the call on all states to condemn the use of these weapons.

While States bear the responsibility to join the Convention, the goal of a mine-free world can only be attained if all entities – whether States or not – stop the deplorable use of these insidious weapons.

I thank you.