

[Agenda item: 7. Matters related to the mandate of the President (a) Universalization]

To be Delivered by Mr. Kingdom Karuwo, UNDP, on behalf of the UN IACG-MA

Mr. President,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action.

The United Nations Secretary-General and his representatives note with concern the absence of new accessions to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention since 2017, as well as the alleged use of anti-personnel mines by States and an increasingly prevalent use of improvised anti-personnel mines by non-state armed actors.

In our collective striving to make the world mine-free, we must continue to stigmatize the use of anti-personnel mines and collectively renew our focus on universalization. We applaud the prioritisation of universalization under this Presidency.

We commend ongoing initiatives to promote universalization – it is particularly encouraging to see efforts undertaken to make various regions mine free - for whole regions of States to join the Convention - notably in Africa, South Caucasus and Southeast Asia.

In this context we congratulate the Government of Algeria for convening the African Regional Seminar on Mine Action in Algiers on 30-31 May this year, which reaffirmed the strong commitment of Algeria to an African continent free of anti-personnel mines and the importance of a regional approach.

In South Caucasus, Links Europe and the Landmine Free South Caucasus regional campaign hosted a successful side event bringing stakeholders from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia together to explore concrete steps to move the region closer to treaty accession.

In Southeast Asia, we see growing dialogue across borders and more frequent regional interaction – illustrated by the fact that Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam will co-host a side event during the National Directors Meeting

Mr. President, let me end by reconfirming the United Nations commitment to advocate for universalization and support initiatives leading to the full implementation of international human rights, humanitarian and disarmament instruments, including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, which is central to the UN peace, humanitarian, human rights, disarmament, and development work.

Thank you.