

**Intervention from the delegation of the Republic of the Philippines**

**5<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

**25-29 November 2024**

Siem Reap, Cambodia

*Agenda Item 8: Review of the operation and status of the Convention  
(d) Assisting the victims*

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines once again congratulates Cambodia in your presidency of the 5th Review Conference of this vital Convention, an important instrument in addressing the plight of the victims of landmines.

Civilians become victims of landmines not only during war times but also during times of transition towards peace. It is in this context that the Philippines firmly believes that mine action should be integrated into peace agreements. Effective mine action is essential for the success of peace processes and the sustainability of peace agreements.

Against this backdrop, the Philippines proposes that this aspect of disarmament be included in the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029. The Philippines has set an example in this regard. In our government's agreement with the Bangsamoro, we made sure that a provision on addressing landmines and unexploded ordnances is included in the said instrument.

Article 5 of the APMBC is essential for creating safer conditions that enable displaced communities to return and rebuild lives. It is thus important to ensure that victim assistance also addresses the risks and the impact of land mines to mobile populations, including migrant workers and refugees. The diverse needs of mobile populations for victim assistance services, such as medical care, rehabilitation, psychosocial support, and mine risk education, should be sufficiently considered and their equitable access to said services should be ensured.

Given this condition, it is important that States Parties to the APMBC promote cross-border collaboration and strengthened international cooperation and assistance to support States Parties that bear a disproportionate burden in providing such services. With this, the Philippines states its support to the creation of a voluntary trust fund of the APMBC.

We have submitted both proposals to the Secretariat in writing.

Mr. President

The Philippines recognizes victim assistance as one of the most important components of this Convention's backbone and of all other humanitarian disarmament conventions. It is for this reason that the Philippines is also prioritizing victim

assistance in its presidency of the Convention on Cluster Munitions from September 2024 to September 2025.

Lastly, the Philippines commits to advancing the plight of the victims of land mines in various bilateral, regional and multilateral platforms, and we request the States Parties' support in this endeavor.

Thank you, Mr. President.