

Thank you, President

On behalf of Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama and my own country New Zealand, we are grateful for your tireless efforts this week, and those of your team, the Coordination Committee, the Bureau, the ISU and UNODA as you guided us towards finalising our work.

We are satisfied with many aspects of the Meeting's report that build on the Convention's fundamental humanitarian objectives, and recognise the clear advances by States from all regions on its implementation.

However, we do want to place on record our concern that certain aspects that were raised by a majority of States Parties that spoke in the Plenary, are not reflected in the final report.

The APMBC has a fundamental value as a global humanitarian instrument, as numerous statements by States Parties to this Meeting have indicated. Universalisation of the Convention must remain a priority to prevent or ameliorate the shattering consequences of these weapons on the lives and well-being of civilians and communities around the world. To that end, it should not have been problematic for this Meeting's report to capture the fact that withdrawal by *any* State Party is deeply concerning and severely undermines the Convention and the standing of its norms.

Therefore, we do not regard the text in paragraphs 472 and 48 of the report to be clear enough on this point, and we consider that it does not reflect the significant repercussions of these withdrawals for the Convention's aims. We did not stand in the way of consensus, but should this kind of universalisation-related matter arise again in this Convention or in a related forum, our States would not consider this language to be a precedent.

Thank you.