

22nd Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
1-5 December 2025
Geneva, Switzerland

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Agenda Item 7: General Exchange of Views

Madame President,

The Philippines joined the Mine Ban Treaty because we believe that anti-personnel landmines are indiscriminate weapons whose legacy of suffering endures long after conflicts end. Their use is incompatible with the most basic principles of human dignity and international humanitarian law.

Our national experience—both in conflict-affected areas and in supporting peace processes—has shown that humanitarian disarmament is not only about removing and eradicating indiscriminate weapons, but also about upholding the rule of law, protecting civilians, and ensuring that victims receive the assistance and dignity they deserve.

For the Philippines' chairship of ASEAN, we will continue to advance the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting the Right to Development and the Right to Peace towards Realising Inclusive and Sustainable Development, which aligns with the vision of a mine-free world, reaffirmed in the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan.

At a time when some retreat from their humanitarian obligations, the Asia-Pacific region offers hope. We warmly welcome the recent ratifications of Marshall Islands and Tonga—an encouraging affirmation that progress is possible through engagement and a continued commitment to the norms and principles of the Convention. From this region of resilience, peacebuilding, and post-colonial recovery, we must continue to lead by example.

We also welcome Oman's completion of its Article 5 obligations. We are encouraged by the perseverance of States Parties in fulfilling their commitments despite persistent challenges and attempts to erode the humanitarian principles that underpin this Convention.

The Philippines expresses its deep concern regarding Ukraine's communication to the UN Secretary-General announcing the suspension of its obligations under the Convention. We underscore that the APMBC contains no provision permitting the suspension of its core obligations by a State Party. Its prohibitions—on the use,

stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines—apply under *any* circumstances. As a long-standing supporter of humanitarian disarmament, the Philippines is concerned that this action risks undermining a core pillar of international humanitarian law and sets a dangerous precedent, without offering any guarantee of deterrence in times of war.

We deeply regret the reversal in the progress toward universalization of the Ottawa Convention. Such setbacks erode the humanitarian norm against landmines and jeopardize the broader humanitarian disarmament architecture whose resilience is urgently needed. We call on all States to reflect on the lived realities of communities still suffering from the enduring legacy of landmine contamination. National security cannot rest on weapons that guarantee long-term civilian harm.

The Philippines reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. We urge all States Parties to collectively affirm that the path to peace is not laid with explosives but built on justice, solidarity, and sustained disarmament.

Thank you, Madame President.