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Madame President/ Vice President,

- 1. At the outset, Thailand welcomes the ratification of the Convention by the Marshall Islands and the accession of Tonga to the Convention. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the President and her team, as well as the members of the Universalization Coordination Group and other stakeholders, for their tireless effort to promote universalization amidst unconventional confrontation.
- 2. While welcoming new States Parties, we cannot deny that the Convention is facing a setback posted by the withdrawal from the Convention of five States due to their security concerns, as well as the use and reuse of anti-personnel mines in territory of a State Party (by other State Party), including in my own country.
- 3. Furthermore, Thailand is fully aware of increased security concerns that led to a decision to suspend the operation of the Convention, however following careful examination, Thailand considers that the Convention does not provide for suspension.
- 4. Bringing the anti-personnel mines back to the battle fields, especially where civilians present will not only undermine humanitarian disarmament norms, but also violate human rights and set back achievement in our development efforts.
- 5. The universal participation in and the full implementation at all times and under any circumstances of the APMBC must remain a priority for all. Thailand reiterates our call on all States Parties to abide by their obligations under the Convention and relevant international laws.

I thank you.