

Twenty-Second Meeting of the State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

IPU Statement under agenda item 9(f) – Universalizing the Convention

2 December 2025

Madam President,

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is honoured to participate in the Twenty-Second Meeting of the State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and offer its contribution to the debate on universalization.

Promoting humanitarian disarmament and advocating for adherence to international humanitarian law (IHL) treaties such as the APMBC has been a priority for the IPU for many years.

As the global organization of national parliaments, the IPU has been working to engage and mobilize the global parliamentary community towards universalization of the Convention since its adoption. Currently, we work together with the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the APMBC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to promote the Convention's universalization among the 183 IPU Member Parliaments and provide them with technical support in this area.

Universalization cannot be achieved without political commitment and action. And this is exactly where parliaments can play a key role and why their engagement is key.

With this in mind, Parliaments from around the world came together in Geneva last October and adopted the Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis* at the closing of the 151st IPU Assembly. The Declaration reaffirms commitment to uphold and promote IHL treaties, including the APMBC. It highlights how these treaties have saved lives over the years and are tools of protection, which must not be applied selectively, interpreted permissively or used as political tools.

The Declaration emphasizes Parliaments' key responsibility in strengthening the current IHL legal framework and its enforcement, including by pursuing efforts towards accession to or ratification of IHL treaties such as the APMBC, in support to the UN Secretary-General's global campaign to uphold the norms of humanitarian disarmament and strengthen mine action. Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to advocate and lobby for accession to the Convention, adopt the necessary legislation, and use their political influence to reach out to constituents to dispel doubts and build support.

In ending, we would also like to welcome the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga as the newest State Parties to the Convention. We know that Parliaments and individual MPs in both countries have provided strong support and been actively engaged in efforts towards ratification and implementation. This is an example of how political will can make a difference.

The IPU looks forward to pursuing efforts in building parliamentary engagement for universalization of the APMBC, and strengthening its partnership with the ISU, ICRC and other partners in advancing towards this important objective.

Thank you.

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