



# REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



## Intersessional Meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 20 June 2025

### Agenda 7a: Universalization



Delivered by Second Secretary Christian Hope V. Reyes  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations Office  
and other International Organizations in Geneva



As it is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, allow me to extend our warm congratulations to you, Ambassador Tomiko Ichikawa, for taking on the presidency of the 22nd Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). We also wish to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the APMBC Implementation Support Unit, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and express our appreciation to the Permanent Mission of Switzerland for hosting these Intersessional Meetings.

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. These weapons kill and maim civilians, including children, impede development, and threaten peace and reconciliation. They violate the most basic principles of human dignity and humanitarian law.

Our national experience, both in conflict-affected areas and in supporting peace processes, have shown us that humanitarian disarmament is not merely about removal of weapons but about upholding the rule of law.





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We are deeply concerned with the threats that risk reversing the progress made in the universalization of the Ottawa Convention. Such developments not only erode the humanitarian norm against landmines, but also jeopardize the broader humanitarian disarmament framework whose resilience is of utmost necessity now more than ever before.

We urge States to reflect on the lived realities of communities still suffering from the legacy of landmine contamination. National security cannot be grounded in the use of weapons that guarantee long-term civilian harm.

At a time when some retreat from their humanitarian obligations, the Asia-Pacific region offers hope. We welcome the recent ratification of the Treaty by the Marshall Islands - an inspiring act that affirms that the way forward is through engagement, not withdrawal. From this region of resilience, peacebuilding, and post-colonial recovery, we must continue to lead by example.

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

Thank you.