

## **APMBC Intersessional 2025 - Agenda Item 7 – UK Statement**

Madam President,

Let me start by commending Japan's exemplary leadership this year, particularly in its outreach and promotion of the universalisation of the Treaty in the Asia Pacific region.

With this in mind, the United Kingdom extends our heartfelt congratulations to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for their ratification to the Convention and welcome the Ambassador's comments this morning. We also welcome the news of Tonga's and Micronesia's progress towards ratification. Strengthening the reach of the obligations and norms of the Treaty remains crucial if we are to meet our goal of a mine-free world. We see this as one of a number of positive signs that further universalisation is possible over the coming years both in the Pacific region and beyond.

Madam President,

We must recognise the impact that Russia's brutal and illegal invasion of Ukraine continues to have on many states here today, which is contributing to regional and global instability. As we have just heard in the room, this has sadly been the backdrop to the decisions that some states have made to withdraw from the Treaty, which the Treaty clearly makes provisions for in Article 20.

Nonetheless, we welcome the presence today of those states who have felt the need to take this decision, and their continued commitment both to international law and to mine action. We will continue to encourage close adherence to the key provisions of the Treaty and its norms as states consider their next steps, and the door should remain firmly open to support states' return.

The United Kingdom remains unwaveringly committed to the Mine Ban Treaty, as has been reiterated several times in the UK Parliament over the past few months. Over the past year we have raised the Treaty with non-states parties whenever appropriate, and continue to call upon all states to ratify the Treaty when circumstances allow. The Treaty remains of vital importance in reducing the humanitarian impacts of anti-personnel landmines, and in supporting safety and security more widely. Its relevance remains undiminished.

Thank you, Madam President.