

APMBC Intersessional Meetings 2025

IPU Statement under agenda item 7a. Universalization

20 June 2025

Madam President,

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is honoured to participate once again in the Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and offer its contribution to the debate on universalization.

The IPU has been working to engage and mobilize the global parliamentary community towards universalization of the Convention since its adoption. As pointed out by the IPU Secretary General, Martin Chungong, in Siem Reap at the Fifth Review Conference last year, the APMBC remains a priority within the IPU, especially under the leadership of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law.

The IPU continues to promote universalization of the Convention among its 181 Member Parliaments by providing them with expertise and technical support in this area, especially in collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The IPU is committed to continue pursuing these efforts, especially with parliaments from the States not yet party to the Convention, in accordance with Action 11 of the Siem Reap Action Plan.

Indeed, universalization cannot be achieved without political commitment and action. This involves a multitude of stakeholders who each have a role to play. And let me be clear: the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in this process cannot be underestimated. Parliamentarians can advocate and lobby for ratification of or accession to the Convention, adopt the necessary legislation, and use their political influence to reach out to constituents to dispel doubts and build support.

We are pleased to acknowledge the commitment made by the Member of Parliament of Tonga at the Fifth Review Conference last year and renewed here today. We congratulate the Kingdom of Tonga, and its Legislative Assembly, for all the steps taken towards accession. This testifies to the pivotal role that parliamentarians can play in universalization efforts. While we welcome the ratification of the Convention by the Republic of the Marshall Islands in March 2025, we are also looking forward to welcoming Tonga as the newest State Party to the Convention soon.

Action is needed to prevent these positive steps from being undermined by the current threats to the multilateral system and to the international humanitarian law framework. The Convention constitutes an essential part of IHL. The challenging

political landscape that the world is facing today calls for a renewed commitment, where we – as an international community – must remind ourselves why anti-personnel mines were banned in the first place. *There is no military advantage to the use of these weapons that can justify such harm to civilians.* Withdrawing from the Convention is not a solution. More than ever, States should move forward towards strengthening this norm and supporting efforts to make the APMBC universally ratified.

The IPU looks forward to continuing working with parliaments and parliamentarians around the world towards universalization of the Convention.

Thank you.

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