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**United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action**  
**Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**  
**(17-20 June 2025)**

**Statement under agenda item 7a. Universalization**

*Delivered by Ms. C. Mélanie Régimbal, UNODA*

*Geneva, 20 June 2025*

Ms. President<sup>1</sup>,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)<sup>2</sup>.

Excellencies,

The United Nations are gravely concerned by announcements and steps taken by several States Parties to withdraw from the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Such announcements are a significant setback for a 28-year-old multilateral Treaty that has saved countless lives.

Moreover, this development represents a troubling erosion of support for the humanitarian disarmament treaties that are fundamental for the protection of human life and dignity. Withdrawal

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<sup>1</sup> H.E. Ms. Tomiko Ichikawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, President of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties.

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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from humanitarian disarmament treaties severely weakens the protection of civilians and risks lives.

Adopted in 1997, the Convention is a landmark achievement. **Its** prohibition of the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of anti-personnel mines reflects a widely held understanding that the humanitarian, social and economic consequences of their use far outweigh any perceived military utility.

We urge all States considering withdrawal to reassess their decisions and halt steps towards this end.

We call on the 32 States that have yet to join the Convention to do so without delay and to fully commit to its objectives. **It is** precisely when civilians are at increased risk from widening conflicts that we must strengthen rather than weaken these vital normative frameworks.

To this end, and as announced in his recent statement on the matter, the Secretary-General has launched a global campaign to uphold the norms of humanitarian disarmament, accelerate mine action as an enabler for the enjoyment of human rights and sustainable development, and drive forward the vision for a mine-free world.

We warmly welcome the recent accession of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and are encouraged by the progress made by Tonga and Micronesia in its accession process. We commend the President of the 22MSP, the Committee on Universalization and the ISU for their efforts to further universalize the Convention.



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Adherence to, and full implementation of, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention must remain a global priority. As the Secretary-General himself has said - ***The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated. The protection of innocent lives depends on our collective action and commitment.***

As today is World Refugee Day, we stand in solidarity with refugees who too often are exposed to the danger of mines.

Thank you.

END



**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

## **Statement of the Secretary-General**

At a time when civilians face heightened risks from widening conflicts, it is imperative that we strengthen the frameworks that protect human life and dignity. I am gravely concerned by recent announcements and steps taken by several Member States to withdraw from the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

These announcements are particularly troubling, as it risks weakening civilian protection and undermining two decades of a normative framework that has saved countless lives. I urge all States to adhere to humanitarian disarmament treaties and immediately halt any steps towards their withdrawal. I also appeal to the 32 States that have yet to join the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to do so without delay and to fully commit to its objectives.

To this end, I intend to launch a global campaign to uphold the norms of humanitarian disarmament, accelerate mine action as an enabler of human rights and sustainable development, and drive forward the vision of a mine-free world. To achieve these aims, over the next six months this campaign will aim to re-energize public support for disarmament, and will also facilitate concrete actions by States to uphold humanitarian norms and strengthen mine action.

The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated. The protection of innocent lives depends on our collective action and commitment.