

APMBC 2025 intersessional meeting, June 2025

Ireland statement -- Universalisation

Thank you, Madame President.

First, let me express our appreciation to you and your team, as well as to the ISU, for the work and activities to date regarding implementation of the universalisation commitments of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

We also welcome updates on the process in Tonga regarding efforts to adhere and ultimately accede to the Convention, and hope that they will soon be able to join this important Treaty.

President,

We join others in warmly welcoming the Republic of the Marshall Islands as the 165th State Party to the APMBC. This is welcome news and an encouraging sign amid stagnating universalisation rates for the Convention. Regrettably, however, 32 states remain outside the Convention, including those who possess and produce anti-personnel landmines.

Despite the APMBC's notable achievements, universalisation remains a significant challenge. We know that such efforts should be underpinned by demonstrating the value of this vital humanitarian disarmament convention, which also serves to bolster IHL, international norms and the rules-based order, and continues to protect civilians from indiscriminate harms. At this time of increasing conflict and conflict zones around the world, we must protect and safeguard the Treaty and its aims, while continuing constructive outreach efforts to further achieve universalisation.

In our own region, Russia's illegal and reckless behaviour in the context of its continued war of aggression in Ukraine has severely worsened the security environment. In this regard, Ireland recognises the particular concerns of some States Parties. At the same time, Ireland underlines our concern about the possible consequences of proposed withdrawals by States Parties from the Convention, including knock-on effects to the APMBC and other humanitarian disarmament instruments, to international norms, and to the stability of the international rules-based order.

Ireland is committed to upholding disarmament regimes, and we will continue to advocate for the APMBC: it matters how wars are fought. Upholding and strengthening IHL and the global norm against landmines - including through promoting universalisation – remains a necessity.

Ireland continues to urge non-party States to the Convention to immediately cease the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines pending membership. We note and welcome the commitment of certain non-party States in this regard.

President,

Landmines are by their nature indiscriminate and imprecise, continue to kill and maim primarily civilians long after conflict is over, and must not be used under any circumstances. Universalisation efforts by all stakeholders to the Treaty are needed now more than ever, in order to save future victims from these indiscriminate weapons.

Thank you