

Master of Ceremonies Script – Opening Session

Regional Dialogue of Stakeholders – San Salvador 5 May 2026

Director of the Implementation Support Unit (MC):

Good morning, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, and friends.

My name is Juan Carlos Ruan and I am the Director of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Implementation Support Unit, it is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Convention, INAVEB and El Salvador to this Regional Dialogue on Sustainable National Capacities, Residual Contamination, and Victim Assistance.

We are honored to gather here in a region that has played a historic role in the global movement to eliminate anti-personnel mines and support victims. It is therefore fitting that we meet here, in El Salvador, a State Party deeply committed to the Convention and to the rights and dignity of survivors.

Over the next three days, we will explore the experiences of States that have completed their Article 5 obligations, those that continue to implement them, and the essential work of ensuring long-term national capacity and strong victim assistance systems. We are grateful to the European Union for supporting this dialogue, and to the Government of El Salvador for hosting us with such generosity.

To begin our opening session, it is my honor to introduce our distinguished speakers, who will set the tone for the days ahead.

Our first speaker represents the heart of this Convention: the survivors and victims' and members of civil society that guide our work. She is the founder of the Association of Survivors of Norte de Santander in Colombia, and a powerful advocate for inclusion and rights. **Please join me in welcoming Ms. Mileiny Ramírez.**

[Mileiny Ramírez speaks]

Thank you very much, Ms. Ramírez, for your powerful words and for reminding us why our work matters.

It is now my privilege to invite the President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations in Geneva, **Her Excellency Ambassador Eunice M. Tembo Luambia**, to deliver her opening remarks. **Madam President, the floor is yours.**

[President of the Convention speaks]

Thank you, Madam President, for your leadership and for guiding our collective efforts under the Convention and the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan.

We now turn to a key partner whose support has made this dialogue possible. The European Union has long been a champion of mine action and a steadfast supporter of the Convention. It is my honour to invite **His Excellency Ambassador Duccio Bandini**, Head of the EU Delegation to El Salvador, to take the floor. **Ambassador Bandini, you are most welcome.**

[EU Ambassador speaks]

Thank you, Ambassador Bandini, for the European Union's continued commitment to a world free of anti-personnel mines and to the rights of survivors.

Now it is my great honor to introduce the President of the Veterans and Ex-Combatants Benefits Administration Institute led by **Dr. Daniel Platero**. I think I speak for all of us, when I say that we look forward to learning more about your work and the sharing of experiences and lessons learned.

Dr. Platero,

You have the floor.

[Dr. Platero Speaks]

Finally, it is a great honour to welcome the key note speaker and representative of our host country. El Salvador has shown remarkable leadership in victim assistance and in sustaining national capacities after completing its demining obligations. We are deeply grateful for your hospitality and partnership.

I am pleased to invite **His Excellency Dr. Félix Ulloa**, Vice President of the Republic of El Salvador, to deliver the keynote opening address. **Your Excellency, the floor is yours.**

[Vice President speaks]

Thank you, Your Excellency, for your inspiring words and for hosting this important regional dialogue.

Excellencies, colleagues, with these opening statements, it is my pleasure to officially launch the programme. I invite all participants to engage actively, share openly, and contribute to the collective progress of our region and our Convention.

We will now proceed with the group photo, followed by the first thematic session.

Thank you.