



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Third Review Conference of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on Universalization

Agenda item 7 (a)

Maputo, Monday 23 June 2014

Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action¹ (IACG-MA), comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

Through its Strategy on Mine Action 2013-2018, the United Nations is committed to advocating for the universalization and the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention as a means to achieve one of our four Strategic Objectives, and to move towards our common vision of a world free of landmines.

The Secretary-General, the Depositary of this Convention, is directly involved in some of these advocacy activities, as are the members of this United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group at the global level and, even more significantly, through our extended presence on the ground.

Universalization of the Convention represents a significant step forward in support of stabilization, peace and security, and progressive advancement of humanitarian international law and human rights law.

IACG-MA members have continued to promote accession to the Convention by States not Parties in many ways, including through outreach activities with governments and parliaments or by participating in awareness-raising campaigns, including those organized to commemorate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April.

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer status), and the World Bank (Observer status).

The Convention protects millions of people living in post-conflict environments, by obligating countries to ban anti-personnel mines, to clear contaminated land or to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from contaminated areas. This translates directly into global commitments addressing the socio-economic consequences of landmine contamination, including support to the Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations welcomes progress towards accession made by some States, in particular by the Sultanate of Oman. The United Nations also takes this opportunity to thank Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium for her universalization efforts with this State.

The United Nations also pays tribute to his Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al Hussein of Jordan for his tireless efforts in advocating for universal accession to the Convention.

Nevertheless, the United Nations notes that no accession to the Convention has taken place since the 13th Meeting of States Parties in December last year and would like to reiterate its support to the Mozambican Presidency in its universalization efforts.

Thank you.