



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on Universalization

Geneva, 25 June 2015

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva Office, UNMAS

Mr. President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹, comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

The United Nations welcomes your presentation and is grateful for the efforts undertaken by the Belgian Presidency in support of universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

The United Nations congratulates Oman for its accession last year to the APMBC: Oman made a positive contribution to the universalization process. The number of States Parties to the treaty has now reached 162, including nearly 70% of mine and ERW-affected states². Though more than 30 States remain outside of the APMBC, most of the States that have used or maintained stockpiles of anti-personnel landmines, and the majority of States affected by anti-personnel mines have joined the treaty, which is a great achievement.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Depositary of the APMBC, uses every opportunity to promote universalization of the treaty, as do several of our United Nations colleagues at both Headquarters and at country level.

Thank you.

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

² Data and analysis from the Mechanism for Monitoring and Evaluation for "The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018."