

**Intersessional Meetings
of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention
7-8 June 2018**

Statements by the Kingdom of Belgium

Check against delivery.

Madam President,

Belgium aligns itself with the statements delivered by the **European Union** and wishes to make the following remarks in her national capacity.

(universalization)

Let me start by expressing my delegation's full support to the Afghan Presidency in preparation to the 17th Meeting of States Parties of the AMPBC.

- Belgium **commends the Presidency's** active engagement to promote the universalization of our Convention and her efforts in the framework of the Informal Working Group on Universalization. My country appreciates the quality and the relevance of the report on the status of universalization that has been produced by the Afghan Presidency.
- Belgium **urge all State Parties to step up their efforts** in support of universalization of the Convention.
- Belgium, as the very **first State to adopt a national legislation** banning these weapons in 1995, remains engaged for the universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
- Belgium **welcomes the recent accessions** to the Ottawa Convention. The Convention now tells 164 State Parties. This a step forward in terms of universalization but further work remains to be done to give the Convention the universal character it needs to achieve its goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines. In this respect, the **EU Council decision** in support of the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan provides valuable support to the Presidency's efforts and the High Level Task Force with the support of the ISU.

I thank you.