

Overview of the General Status of Universalization

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Palau

As it is the first time for Palau to address the floor, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for making participation of Small Island State possible.

Palau continues to promote the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban (APMB) Convention in the Pacific region. Understanding the negative effect of land mines, Palau is working with the GICHD and the ISU toward hosting a Pacific Workshop to raise the awareness for Pacific Small Island States, especially our brothers and sisters from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Island (RMI), on the benefits and obligations of being a State Party to the APMB.

Palau continues to work with the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) and its Forum Regional Security Council (FRSC) to address land mine infestation within the Pacific; in which the Pacific Leaders addressed the issue in the Auckland 2011 Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting. Directly following the 2011 Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting, the Leaders wished to finalize and publish the Pacific UXO Strategy to provide guidelines for Pacific Small Island States.

With such direction from the Pacific Leaders, Palau will continue its work with the FRSC to finalize the Pacific UXO Strategy by June 2012 in preparation toward the Pacific Leaders Meeting in August 2012. At such Pacific Leaders Meeting, Palau will carry on its effort to promote the Convention and the benefits of being a State Party to the APMB.