

Palau
Thank you.

Your Royal Highness,

As the newest State Party to the Convention, Palau is already proceeding to be a leader in promoting further acceptance of the Convention in part by hosting, with the support of ISU and Australia, a workshop this August intended to increase understanding of the Convention on the part of the North Pacific region. Palau deposited its Instrument of Accession during the 8MSP in Jordan and the Convention came into force for Palau on 1 May, just a month ago.

It is Palau's perspective that the North Pacific region can contribute to the prevention of the trafficking and trans-shipments of illicit small arms, including AP mines if our region implements domestic legislations making our entire EEZ AP Mine Free. This will give our marine law enforcement the legal rights to arrest ships carrying AP mines through our maritime zones. The size of the maritime zones from the Marshall Islands to Palau is about the size of the continental United States.

My Delegation takes this opportunity to welcome the participation of fellow Pacific Islands Forum Members whom were able to make it to the Standing Committees, and we hope eventually all Forum Members will become active actors of the Convention.

The Pacific Islands may not be effected States with AP mines or cluster munitions, nor do we produce or stockpile these weapons, but being active members of the Convention is by way, the Pacific Way of contributing to international peace and security. This is the obligation we took under the Charter when we became members of the United Nations.