



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

14th Meeting of State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on Universalization Geneva, 1 December 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 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

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

The number of States Parties to the treaty has now reached 162 (84 percent of Member States). However 35 States remain outside of the APMBC.

Echoing the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations who reminds us that anti-personnel landmines have no place in our world, the United Nations calls on those states who have not yet done so, to accede to this important convention without delay.

Mr. President,

The designation, on 14 April, of the first-ever United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards has provided the United Nations with an additional spectrum of options and platforms with which to bring attention to relevant international normative instruments and encourage greater universalisation.

In closing, we recall that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Depositary of the APMBC, reiterated in his last report on assistance in mine action of August, a call for the universalization of this critical instrument and for compliance in all aspects.

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).