



## Ministry of State

REMARKS BY  
Temmy L. Shmull, Minister of State  
To the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (8MSP) to the Mine Ban Convention  
Dead Sea, Jordan

Your Royal Highness, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure and honor to be here at this historical city today to represent the Republic of Palau to the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (8MSP) to the Mine Ban Convention. Since the 6MSP in Zagreb, Palau has worked diligently with the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining to bring Palau onboard to the Mine Ban Treaty.

The Republic of Palau is firmly committed to the ultimate goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines, and in this same sense, Palau associates itself with the <sup>155</sup>/~~152~~ countries which have ratified the Mine Ban Convention. It is Palau's perspective that the devastating humanitarian, social, and economic impacts of these weapons far outweigh any military advantage they offer. Palau is convinced that anti-personnel mines are also major obstacles to the UN Millennium Development Goals for developing countries.

Palau may not have problems with anti-personnel mines, however, it is Palau's perspective that the whole world shares what Palau terms "Common

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Heritage of Humanity". It is in this regard that Palau sees its moral obligation and responsibility to do its part in making sure that the universality of the Mine Ban Convention is promoted.

It is Palau's perspective that the universality of the Mine Ban Convention would be a major step in reducing the harmful effects of anti-personnel mines. However, this is not enough. At the root of the business of producing and proliferating anti-personnel mines is the issue of Human Security. As long as there are conflicts, landmines will continue to haunt our children and their future.

And therefore on this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty and on the dawn of a new Secretary-General of the United Nations, and in the Spirit of Common Heritage of Humanity, Palau calls the world attention to address the issue of Human Security.

Your Royal Highness, it is my honor and a privilege that in this historical biblical site and on this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty, that I, ~~Temmy Shmull, Minister of State of the Republic of Palau,~~ formally deposit my Government's Instrument of Accession to the Mine Ban Treaty. And with this occasion of my country's accession, I also urge the other countries which have not joined the Convention to do so.

It is my Government's perspective that Palau becomes a part of this process (the Convention) in order for the Convention to achieve universality. The Convention is as much a treaty for the elimination of a weapon as it is a humanitarian and a developmental institution – a direct link to the UN

Millennium Development Goals obligations – the reconstruction of mine affected countries. At the end of the day, it is Palau that has to comply to international law.

Palau, one of the smallest countries in the world with a population of 19,100 inhabitants, one would wonder how a country with our size can help end the human misery caused by landmines.

As a member state, Palau would be able to contribute to the Convention through providing workshops, such as the upcoming North Pacific Regional Workshop to be held in Palau on 29 February 2008. Last May in Vanuatu, my Delegation championed the universality of the Convention to our colleagues in the Pacific Islands Forum whom are not yet states parties. Such sub-regional workshop and seminars would contribute to the enhancement of the peoples' awareness for the Convention's role in providing for the security and defense of the innocents.

Finally, I would like to conclude by expressing my country's profound appreciation to the support and patience of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining, and especially to Mr. Kerry Brinkert, whom has been working with my Government for the last five years in making today possible for Palau to finally deposit its Instrument of Accession.

Thank you very much.