

BELGIUM

Universalization

APMBC – 2024 Intersessional meetings - June 2024

Mr. President,

Belgium wishes to commend your engagement, and through it, Cambodia's commitment in support of the universalization of our Convention. We fully share your priority in this matter and remain committed, as co-facilitator for Universalization, to support your efforts in encouraging States to join the APMBC.

Since its inception, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has allowed us to decrease the number of victims worldwide by prohibiting the use of these weapons, by guiding the destruction of stockpiles, facilitating mine clearance and victim assistance, as well as by promoting mine risk education standards.

In a time where the rules-based international order is threatened and urgently needs strengthening for the sake of humanity, my delegation remains convinced that the accession of any new State Party to our Convention would represent a major step for the promotion of the international norm against these crude weapons and would contribute to reinforce the global rules-based order.

We would like to express Belgium's appreciation for the steps States not yet party to the convention have already taken to adhere to the spirit and to a number of principles and norms shared within the Convention, and thank States not yet party that are present today in this room and that adhere to the principles of the Convention.

This being said, the challenge to get even more States on board remains and everyone within the mine-action community can play a role in order for us all to meet our objectives. My delegation therefore encourages all States Parties to the Convention to actively engage in a dialogue with States not yet Party to the convention to see how hurdles can be overcome. Every effort for the universalization of our Convention counts.

Belgium thanks all stakeholders, States Party and Civil Society Organizations, that actively engage in the Universalization Core Group, set up under Germany's presidency and that Belgium has the honour to co-chair this year. My delegation is convinced that this tool can help us to coordinate and intensify our activities related to the universalization of the APMBC. As we are approaching the Fifth Review Conference, we have a unique opportunity to structure our collective efforts on this topic. Belgium is therefore calling for the APMBC to rethink its machinery in order for it to be able to address all of its current challenges.

I thank you Mr. President.