



Mr. President,

Attaining a mine free world entails the full observance of the ban norm, but also, the most complete membership of the Mine Ban Treaty, making sure that in the spirit of humanitarian disarmament everyone, including people living in disputed territories, is free from the danger posed by landmines.

Let's make sure that the universalization record of the Treaty can be projected towards 2025 with the robust implementation of the Oslo Action Plan!

With 164 States on Board, our Treaty in its two decades ranks among the most universal ones. This is something we should be proud of. But we should not be complacent. Only three States have become States Parties since the Maputo Review Conference: Oman, State of Palestine and Sri Lanka.

By 2025 the Mine Ban Treaty should at least come closer to the universalization levels of the Biological Weapons Convention, 183 States Parties, or the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with 181.

There are only 14 states that have consistently abstained from voting the annual UNGA resolution supporting the Mine Ban Treaty. No country votes against it!

Among those who should not be that far from joining are:

The Marshall Islands, the only Signatory of the Mine Ban Treaty. It has made important contributions for the advancement of nuclear disarmament and in that spirit, it could certainly support banning landmines. ICBL has maintained its advocacy outreach with Marshall Islands, having had the opportunity to meet with President Heine in Geneva earlier in the year.

Cuba, Lao PDR, and Lebanon have taken decisive steps in strengthening the global norm against cluster munitions. Shouldn't they accede in the Mine Ban

Treaty based on such a humanitarian commitment? In the view of the humanitarian disarmament movement, if a country already has taken a stance against an indiscriminate weapon of long-term and disproportionate effects, it should oppose all other weapons of similar nature and consequences.

We understand that accession and ratification are complex processes at the national level and can be affected by regional geopolitical situations. Thus, we call on States Parties to support the aforementioned countries and others, in line with the actions 11 and 12 of the Oslo Action Plan.

Mr. President, esteemed delegates,

There is no doubt about the need for universalization. However, over the years, there prevails a lack of urgency in promoting it; with pessimism about States not party willingness to join, irrespective of their record in upholding the norm against landmines.

This is the moment to conduct an intense advocacy push to help these countries realize that they are reserving themselves the right to keep and use an abominable instrument of death, destruction, poverty and suffering! We truly believe that their people do not really want that.

President, the ICBL looks forward to working with you and your team, other States Parties, the ICRC, and the UN to ensure our collective universalization efforts result in new States Parties.

This is a moment for commitment. 2025 is our target and the Oslo Action Plan our roadmap!

Thanks.