

15th Meeting of States Parties to APMBC  
(28 November - 1 December 2016, Santiago)  
Statement on Universalization by JAPAN  
(Draft)

Thank you, Mme. President,

Membership of this Convention has reached 162 and the norms of the convention have been universally acknowledged. We can evaluate efforts of universalization not only by the number of the States Parties, but also by the reducing number of producers and exporters. According to “Landmine Monitor 2016”, 41 states, which used to produce antipersonnel mine in the past, have ceased its production. At least nine states not party to this Convention, including six landmine producers, have enacted formal moratoriums on the export of antipersonnel mines. Other past exporters have made statements declaring that they have stopped exporting. This is a remarkable achievement of the Convention.

Mme. President,

While recognizing these progresses already made, we witness that in recent years, the pace of universalization has slowed, and countries with large stockpiles and/or producing anti-personnel mines still stay outside of this legal framework. Universalization remains an enduring challenge for each State Party to tackle.

Japan attaches great importance to promote universalization in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular. Compared to other regions that have achieved universal acceptance, such as Sub-Saharan Africa and the EU, 15 States in the Asia-Pacific region are not yet party to the Convention. Although we recognize that universal acceptance to the convention is most needed in this region, we need to pay attention to the reasons behind this slow tempo. In our view, mutual trust among states in the region should be restored and security environment should be improved, though vigorously introducing confidence building measures. We also agree with the

view that high level attendance to the Meeting of States Parties and their outreach to States not party would be effective to not only to enhance a political momentum against this important issue of landmines but also to achieve better results in universalization. Taking this opportunity, we would like to reiterate our utmost respect and appreciation to the Special Envoys for the convention, namely, His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan, and Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium for their dedication and great contribution.

Mme. President,

Accelerating universalization of the Convention will require persistent action by all States Parties and will take considerable time. Japan will continue to make its utmost together with the members of the international community to pursue universal adherence to the Convention.

Thank you, Mme. President.