



**United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
12th Meeting of States Parties to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention**

**Statement on Universalizing the Convention
Agenda item 10 (d)
Geneva 6 December 2013**

**Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

I deliver the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising the 14 United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

The Secretary-General, Depositary of this Convention, has called for universal adherence to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention in a number of occasions this year, including on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April), and in his message to this Meeting.

Thanks to the accessions of Finland, Tuvalu, South Sudan and Somalia, the Convention continues to move steadily towards universalization. The United Nations calls again on states not yet party to join this important convention without delay and takes this opportunity to congratulate Poland for its upcoming accession to the Convention, as announced earlier this week.

The UN welcomes the presence of non-State parties in this week's meeting. We are also encouraged by statements made today and, in this regard, I want to reiterate the UN commitment to assist them in acceding to the Convention. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank them, Myanmar and Palestine, for their kind words expressed to the support of UNMAS, including in relation to Palestine's submission of their Article 7 report.

The UN would be remiss not to commend again the work of civil society in pushing, pulling and supporting our efforts.

The United Nations takes this opportunity to reconfirm its support to efforts made to elicit commitments by non-state armed groups to ban mines and to mine action. We would like in particular to acknowledge the contributions of the Geneva Call and others in this regard. States bear the responsibility of joining the Convention. That said, the ultimate aim of the Convention would only be attained fully once all entities –whether states or not- renounce to the use of antipersonnel mines and engage in their total elimination.

I thank you