



*As delivered*

**United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action**  
**Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**  
**(15-18 June 2026)**

**Statement under agenda item 2. Universalization**

***Delivered by UNODA***

***Geneva, 15 June 2026***

Thank you Madame President<sup>1</sup>,

Excellencies,

I have the honour to share the perspectives of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)<sup>2</sup> on this timely agenda item.

We welcome the renewed efforts to stand up for International Humanitarian Law and for the humanitarian disarmament conventions that prohibit the use of indiscriminate and inhumane weapons. These instruments are not only essential for the protection of civilians; they form the very foundations of humanitarian mine action.

Excellencies,

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<sup>1</sup> H.E. Ms. Eunice M. Tembo Luambia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations in Geneva, President of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties.

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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Anti-personnel mines have no place in modern warfare. Advances in technology have significantly reduced their military relevance — far outweighed by their long-term humanitarian cost, which continues for decades after conflict ends.

We must counter assumptions about the continued utility of these weapons and highlight their use as ineffective, inhumane, indiscriminate, and incompatible with international humanitarian law.

The humanitarian consequences of anti-personnel landmines are long-lasting and borne primarily by civilians. This trend, strengthens the urgency of their prohibition and of universalizing the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Universalization is fundamentally about people — mine-affected populations, survivors and their families, those displaced, and communities living in fear and hindered in their ability to live safe and full lives.

Excellencies,

New accessions strengthen the Convention; we welcome the announcement by Lebanon of its accession to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

**Lebanon's accession sends a powerful message:** even under the most complex circumstances, commitment to humanitarian norms **must remain a priority.**

It also reminds us why we must continue to strengthen the protection of civilians from these indiscriminate weapons. **Our shared objective is to protect lives – an enduring and universal imperative that cannot be applied selectively depending on the situation.**



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The United Nations stands ready to support Lebanon in fulfilling its future obligations under the Convention, including clearance, risk education, and victim assistance.

Excellencies,

**This Convention is one of the most successful humanitarian achievements of our time and must be preserved and strengthened. We must reject any attempts to justify the reintroduction of these weapons and condemn their use or production by any actor under any circumstances.**

The United Nations urges States to reverse any withdrawals and to recommit fully to the Convention's objectives. We call on States not yet party to join without delay, and on all States Parties to fully and faithfully implement their obligations.

We also encourage full implementation of all related humanitarian disarmament instruments — the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on Conventional Weapons, and the political declaration EWIPA.

As we approach the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention next year, the United Nations will continue to build on the Secretary-General's efforts to promote international humanitarian law and strengthen humanitarian disarmament norms.

Let us use this milestone to reaffirm our commitment towards a mine-free world - not only in words, but through sustained political will and concrete action.

I thank you.

**END**