

**Cartagena Summit for a Mine-Free World High-Level Segment
3-4 December 2009. Cartagena, Colombia**

**Statement by H.E. ERLINDA F. BASILIO
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**Your Excellencies Vice President Francisco Santos Calderón,
Minister Jaime Bermúdez Merizalde,
Ambassador Susan Eckey and Ambassador Clara Ines Vargas Silva**

Fellow Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, I wish to extend to the Government and People of Colombia, through you, Vice President Santos and Minister Bermúdez, the appreciation and best wishes of the Government and People of the Philippines for Colombia's exemplary hosting of the Cartagena Summit for a Mine-Free World.

The Philippine Delegation also wishes to express its congratulations to you, Ambassador Susan Eckey, for your election as President of the Second Review Conference, and to you, Ambassador Clara Ines Vargas Silva, as Secretary-General, and our gratitude for the outstanding stewardship of our proceedings,

We would also like to congratulate Ambassador Juerg Streuli for a job well done as President of the Ninth Meeting of States Parties (MSP).

We thank the Governments of Colombia and Norway for the thorough and efficient preparations for the Summit, being held in the beautiful city of Cartagena. This wonderful venue, which reminds us of our own tropical locales in the Philippines, contributes immeasurably to the highly collegial and festive atmosphere of our Summit.

During this Summit and Review Conference, we look back at our successes and identify remaining challenges. But more importantly, we are charting a course for the future. Our vision, priorities and aspirations are encapsulated in the Cartagena Plan of Action, which builds on the Nairobi Plan and our work over the past decade.

We join fellow states-parties and civil society in urging continued support for one of the most important facets of Ottawa Convention, namely victim assistance. Furthermore, the Philippines believes that states-parties should retain only the absolute minimum number of landmines necessary for clearly defined training needs, and calls on them to determine if they really need any live mines whatsoever for their training needs.

The Philippines is fortunate in that we have not suffered to the extent as other

states parties represented here today, in terms of injury and loss of life due to anti-personnel landmines. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) does not possess landmines, even for training purposes, and has long eliminated its mine inventory, including command-detonated mines. Landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) confiscated from Armed Non-State Actors (ANSAs) are in fact destroyed promptly. Our involvement in the Ottawa Process has, in light of Article 9 of the Treaty, prioritized the aspect of NSAs and the need to ensure that they observe the norms established in our Treaty, as manifested in the various provisions on Non-State Actors in the Cartagena Action Plan. The AFP stands ready to join international partners in further building Philippine expertise in Mine Action, IED handling and related technical skills, and in turn would welcome the opportunity to share such expertise with other countries.

The mine action work of Philippine and international civil society in our country, namely that of the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL) led by Atty. Sol Santos and its global partner, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) headed by Ms. Sylvie Brigot, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action / Fondation Suisse pour Demanage (FSD) led by Mr. Hansjoerg Eberle, and Geneva Call headed by Ms. Elizabeth Decrey Warner, assumes great significance. Their efforts in encouraging ANSAs to sign unilateral "declarations of adherence" and "deeds of commitment" to adhere to the Ottawa Treaty are of the utmost importance, and their conduct of humanitarian and peacebuilding

activities, have also gained us dividends in our peace and human rights processes.

The PCBL and FSD recently concluded a successful Mine and Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) Risk Education Train-the-Trainer course in Mindanao. The newly-trained MRE Providers will deliver safety messages and give advice and assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other communities affected by UXO.

The AFP has worked closely with Geneva Call, fully supporting the facilitation of its Verification Mission in the Philippines. The Mission was conducted in to help ensure that ANSAs abide to their Deeds of Commitment not to use victim activated anti-personnel mines in the furtherance of their cause.

The Philippine Delegation also wishes to pay tribute to the work of the UN Mine Action Service, the UN Office on Disarmament Affairs Secretariat represented by Mr. Peter Kolarov, the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) as the Ottawa Treaty Implementation Support Unit headed by Mr. Kerry Brinkert, the Red Cross Movement, encompassing our own National Society, the ICRC and IFRC, the Geneva Forum, Landmine Action (now Action Against Armed Violence), Quaker Office UN, Landmine Monitor, Non-Violence International, Handicap International, the Danish Demining Group (DDG), the Mine Advisory Group (MAG) and our other friends in Civil Society.

We are also making headway in enacting implementing legislation. As the first hearings for a national Landmines Bill were held in the Philippine Congress earlier this year, we also hope to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in the near future.

The Philippines is privileged to play an active role in the global disarmament agenda, as demonstrated by our Presidency of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (NPT RevCom), current Vice Chairmanship of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Disarmament Committee, current Chairmanship of the UN Secretary General's Disarmament Advisory Group, Chairmanship of the 2010 Group of Government Experts for the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (GGE-CCW), and hosting of the 2010 Asia-Pacific Conference of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (GDAVD). We also wish to thank our fellow Ottawa Treaty States Parties for having elected the Philippines as Co-Rapporteur for Stockpile Destruction next year.

The Philippines also looks forward to working closely with our fellow Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) partners in advancing the disarmament agenda, particularly the Lao PDR in their planned hosting of the First Meeting of States Parties (MSP) of the Convention on Clusters Munitions next year, while Cambodia will host the 10th Ottawa Treaty Meeting of States Parties in 2012.

We would also like to thank Indonesia for their recent hosting of a Conference on Cluster Munitions in Bali.

The lessons learned, experiences gained and expertise honed in the campaign against landmines can be brought to bear in other needed areas. The international community of Ottawa Treaty and landmine advocates and experts also work in the interconnected realms of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Cluster Munitions (CMs), Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs), Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). There is great potential therefore for the Ottawa Community to engage more fully in broader disarmament, humanitarian and peace-building work.

In this context, the Philippines together with the Delegations of Norway and Switzerland, and our friends in Civil Society, have organized a side event during our Summit on the nexus between the Ottawa Treaty and the Armed Violence and Development (AVD) process.

The Philippines fully subscribes to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (GDAVD) and thereby shares the view that armed violence does impact negatively on socio-economic development. In our recent report to the UN Secretary General on Armed Violence and Development, the Philippines stated that the cost of armed violence can be measured in terms of lost lives, social disruption and slowed economic growth. Thus, the Ottawa Treaty

Community is a natural partner for our Armed Violence and Development efforts. We intend to further explore this connection in the upcoming GDAVD Regional Workshop we are hosting in Manila in March next year.

The Philippines seizes this opportunity to reiterate our fullest commitment to the Ottawa Treaty and support for the realization of a mine-free world. This is a successful and ongoing collaboration of state parties, the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, civil society and individuals all over the world. The Ottawa Treaty is a disarmament and humanitarian convention, which also advances our aspirations for peace, development and human rights, and eloquently demonstrates the global community's collective potential for agreement and collaboration on critical issues.

We also wish to thank again the Governments of Colombia and Norway in helping us realize a successful Cartagena Summit, an important milestone in our march towards a world free from the scourge of landmines.

Thank you, and Mabuhay!