

## **9f. UNIVERSALIZING THE CONVENTION**

The mandate of the President sees that the President promotes the universalization of the Convention and its norms, including in relevant multilateral and regional fora, as well as at the national level.

Today, the Convention has 162 States Parties, this is a great achievement but it is not a reason for us to be complacent.

Pursuing universal adherence to the Convention and acceptance of its norms is essential to fulfilling the promise of the Convention. At the Fourth Review Conference in 2019, States Parties made several commitments in adopting the Oslo Action Plan including to use all available avenues to promote ratification of/accession to the Convention by States not party including by encouraging their participation in the work of the Convention and to continue to promote universal observance of the Convention's norms and objectives, condemn violations of these norms and take appropriate steps to end the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including by armed non-State actors.

Many States not party acknowledge and support to various degrees the humanitarian goals of the Convention and highlight the grave consequences of the use of anti-personnel mines. Some States not party have put in place moratoria on the use, production, export and/or import of anti-personnel mines but they still remain outside the Convention for a variety of reasons.

That being said, a small number of States not party engage in the work of the Convention regularly, by participating in our meetings, submitting information through voluntary Article 7 transparency reports and or voting in favour of the annual UNGA resolution on the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. I am happy to see that many States not party have registered to join us here this week.

In Oslo, at the Fourth Review Conference, we committed to continue promoting universal adherence and we should spare no effort in encouraging the States not party to join as soon as possible.

Over the course of 2020, I have reached out to the 33 States that remain outside this Convention. I have written to them individually inviting them to provide updated information on their accession status, as well as to participate in the work of the intersessional meetings and in the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties. This year, I have also held bi-lateral meetings with a few States not Party as well.

You will have seen that I have prepared, with information compiled by the ISU, an overview of the official information available on the views and practices of the 33 States not party as relates to the Convention.

In some cases, official information is not available and in other cases the information is quite old and would benefit from being updated in order to more accurately reflect the current position of States not party.

Additionally, Sudan, as President of the Convention addressed the Conference on Disarmament on 26 February 2020 seizing the opportunity to appeal to all members of the Conference that have not yet done so to join the Convention as soon as possible. Moreover, Canada, seized the opportunity of the CCW meeting to appeal to all member to take steps towards accession to the Convention.

In accordance with Action #12, on 1 June 2020, the President disseminated a press release condemning the use of mines in Libya following reports, including by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, of the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature left in areas of Tripoli. The President called for an immediate halt to the use of anti-personnel mines. 17. On 3 February 2020, the President

disseminated a press release acknowledging the unfortunate landmine policy change announced on 31 January 2020 by the United States in which the “administration is rescinding the Presidential Policy concerning anti-personnel landmines (APL)” which the President recognized as a “deviation of what has been its de facto and official policy for nearly thirty years” and indicated that doing so could “only drift the US further apart from 80% of the world's States who have committed to protect civilians from these treacherous weapons.”

We thankfully also saw some positive voting in the 163 in favour and 16 abstaining.