

# Press Release



## United Nations Human Rights Chief to participate in international anti-landmines meeting in Geneva

*Geneva 4 October 2012* – The United Nations’ Human Rights Commissioner, Navi Pillay will be one of the keynote speakers at the opening of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or *Ottawa Convention*.

“Navi Pillay’s participation in this important meeting is significant,” said Ambassador Matjaz Kovacic of Slovenia, who will serve as the 12MSP President, noting that the opening of the anti-landmines movement’s annual conference coincides with the United Nation’s International Day for Persons with Disabilities. “Navi Pillay will help reinforce the link between the Convention’s promise to landmine survivors and broader efforts to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities.”

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is the first multilateral arms control or disarmament treaty to call for action with respect to the women, girls, boys and men who have fallen victim to a particular weapon. Many of those who survive an anti-personnel mine explosion are left living with a disability. Landmine survivors have swelled the population of persons with disabilities in many countries around the globe.

“We share an important goal: the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in their societies on an equal basis with others,” said Matjaz Kovacic. “Therefore, I look forward to continued collaboration between the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the UN’s Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights.”

In June, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights stated, that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which entered into force in 2008, “provides the broadest framework to address the needs of landmine survivors and to ensure the full realization of their human rights and respect for their inherent dignity.”

Of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention’s 160 States Parties, a total of 100 are also party to the CRPD, including 15 States whose populations include significant numbers of landmine survivors. At the Convention’s 2009 Second Review Conference, or Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World, the States Parties agreed to address the needs and guarantee the rights of landmine survivors in the context of broader disability efforts. Many affected States are expected to report on these efforts at the 12MSP.

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