

## **Towards a world without anti-personnel landmines: Statement of Ambassador Jean Lint on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Brussels Call (Brussels, May 9, 2007)**

Ten years ago, in this conference room of the Egmont Palace, 96 States signed the Brussels Call, affirming their objective of concluding the negotiation in Oslo and of signing an agreement banning anti-personnel landmines before the end of 1997 in Ottawa. All those States made this promise in good faith as all of them are now parties to the Convention.

Today, **153 States** have joined the Convention, that is 78 % of the world's States, with the highest rate of adherence per continent in Europe (95 %), the Americas (94 %), Africa (92 %) and the Pacific region (69 %).

From the original 133 signatories, **two** still have to ratify the Convention. Forty States have not yet acceded to it. In Asia, the adherence is a low 48%, in the Commonwealth of Independent States 42% and in the Middle East 25%.

### **42 States are still outside the Convention. What are they waiting for?**

Let's try to understand why those countries are still outside of the Convention by analyzing the votes on the annual resolution of the UNGA calling for the universality of the Convention.

**From 1997 until 2006, twenty States either abstained or were absent for the vote on the resolution :** Cuba, D P R Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Libya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palau, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United States, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. Some of them argue that anti-personnel landmines are essential for defence purposes and others that they could not join because of WW II remnants of war.

**Eight States first abstained then voted Yes:** Azerbaijan, China, Kuwait, Lebanon, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia and Morocco.

**Fourteen always voted Yes or even co-sponsored the resolution when present at the vote:** Armenia, Bahrain, Finland, Georgia, Iraq, Nepal, Oman, Poland, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Tuvalu and the United Arab Emirates

### **Why are they still outside of the Convention? What are they waiting for?**

In view of the universality of the Convention

- All States Parties should encourage **the Marshall Islands** and **Poland**, the only two signatories of the Convention in Ottawa on December 4, 1997 which have not yet ratified it, to ratify before the tenth anniversary of the Convention this year.
- All States Parties, and especially those of the Middle East, like Jordan, Qatar and Yemen should encourage **Bahrain**, **Kuwait**, **Oman** and the **United Arab Emirates** to join the Convention or start the parliamentary process of accession before the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties which will take place in Jordan in November this year.

- All States Parties belonging to the Pacific region should encourage **Tonga** and **Tuvalu** to take the necessary steps of accession.
- With the welcomed ratification of Indonesia, ASEAN should encourage its members to accede to the Convention and especially **Singapore** which has always voted in favour of universality at the United Nations.

One continent should show the example, in a near future, to be the first to be without anti-personnel landmines. Why not Europe and especially the European Union where only Finland and Poland States are still outside of the Convention? Why not the Pacific, where five States are missing, none of them being affected by anti-personnel landmines?

What are we all waiting for?