



ICRC

ICRC Statement on Universalization Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional meetings Geneva, 25 June 2015

The International Committee of the Red Cross is pleased to observe the ongoing progress on the universalization of this Convention.

The ICRC warmly welcomes **Oman** as the newest State party to the Convention. This is another step towards the global acceptance of this important humanitarian law treaty. The ICRC welcomes the presence today of States not yet party to the Convention, and hopes that more States will consider that the use of anti-personnel mines is unacceptable and consequently accede to the Convention in the near future.

The ICRC also welcomes the **United States'** recent policy changes concerning anti-personnel mines and its commitment to destroying most of its stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, and to refraining from producing, acquiring, using, or even assisting, encouraging, or inducing others to use, stockpile, produce or transferring them outside of what is necessary for the Korean Peninsula. We hope that the US will continue to build on its commitment voiced during the Maputo Review Conference, and urgently pursue solutions that would be compliant with the Convention and which would allow it to accede to the Convention as quickly as possible. The US change in policy is an important indication that persistent and long-term universalization efforts can yield results.

In light of the **United States'** policy change, the ICRC invites the **Marshall Islands**, a signatory of the Convention, to ratify the Convention and to complete its efforts towards attaining the Convention's goals. Likewise, the ICRC extends this invitation to the **Federated States of Micronesia**. We also call on all other States that have not yet joined the Convention to review their positions in light of such developments.

Yet, the ongoing use in Korea and reports of recent use in other countries remain a concern. Thankfully the use of antipersonnel mines has been limited and in most instances localized. We must continue our efforts to stigmatize any use of the weapon.

To conclude, the ICRC would like to thank the States Parties that have been relentlessly working to promote universal adherence to the Convention. Recent developments are a result of all of our efforts to move one step closer to a world free of anti-personnel mines.