

Check against delivery

Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention

Intersessional meeting. Geneva, 8-9 June 2017

Statements by Belgium

### **On Universalisation**

Since 1997 the impact of the Convention has been extremely important as 162 countries have acceded to the Convention : the use and the production of anti-personnel mines has decreased dramatically, millions of mines have been destroyed by the State Parties and demining has resulted in millions of square meters of once dangerous land being cleared for human activity.

But the purpose of the Convention is *to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.*

We would like to **commend the demarches** made by the Austrian Presidency and his actions in the framework of the informal working group on universalization working group.

As foreseen in the Maputo Action Plan, it's also the responsibility of all States Parties to promote formal adherence to the Convention by States not Party to the Convention.

Belgium remains engaged in **advocacy for universalization** of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. We continue to seize all opportunities to approach non states parties, bilaterally, inviting them to join the Convention as soon as possible. It's also an occasion to better understand the obstacles, difficulties that still hinder the full accession process sometimes despite of the heavy legacy in terms of contamination and considerable efforts already to clear great portions of the affected zones.