

**Intervention by the Turkish Delegation  
(Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, 20 June  
2011)**

**Item: universalization**

Thank you Mr. Coordinator,

As this is the first time the Turkish Delegation is taking the floor, I should like to thank Canada and Belgium, coordinators of the Universalization Contact Group; as well as HE Gazmand Turdiu, 10MSP President and his Special Envoy on universalization, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussain of Jordan. All efforts directed at the universalization of the Convention are highly appreciated.

At Cartagena, we agreed to continue promoting universal observance of the Convention's norms by armed non-state actors. Nevertheless, with reference to the statements of the ICBL and the UN Mine Action team, I should like to re-iterate that when engagement by non-governmental organizations of armed non-state actors is considered, vigilance is required to prevent terrorist organizations from exploiting the Ottawa Process for their own goals.

In this connection, we put into record once more our concern that a previous signing of the deed of commitment of the Geneva Call was inconsistent with the principle that when engagement with armed non-state actors is contemplated, States Parties concerned should be informed and their consent should be obtained in order for such an engagement to take place. Obviously, this principle was not respected in one occasion in the past.