

UNIVERSALIZATION

STATEMENT BY HRH PRINCE MIRED RAAD AL HUSSEIN OF JORDAN SPECIAL ENVOY ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE AP MINE BAN CONVENTION

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION 20 JUNE 2011

It has been an honour to again serve as the President's Special Envoy on Universalization.

In Cartagena, we agreed that "attracting further adherents to the Convention has grown more difficult in recent years implying that future efforts to promote acceptance of the Convention and its norms will require intensive effort at as high a level as possible."

Turning our words into deeds is the responsibility for all of us. In this regard, it is a pleasure to report to you on what I have done so far this year.

The main highlight of my efforts has been a high level universalization mission to the Republic of Korea in April.

In carrying out this mission, I was certainly not naïve to the Republic of Korea's profound security concerns.

However, I carried out this mission equally well aware that Korea is a modern, progressive nation that has a great appreciation for international humanitarian norms.

As such, I sought to explore ways that the Korea may wish to engage in the work of the Convention and to more generally discuss the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines.

In Seoul, I met with the Deputy Minister for Policy of the Ministry of National Defense, the Deputy Minister of Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, the Chief of the High Court of the Korean Armed Forces and the Ambassador of the USA to the Republic of Korea.

In addition, I met with representatives of the Korean Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Korean Red Cross Society.

Also in Korea, I visited the Demilitarized Zone where I met with the heads of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

The mission was important for many reasons. Perhaps most significantly, a State not party that has not been directly engaged by States Parties on the landmine issue for several years – perhaps for more than a decade – is again on notice that there is a strong desire that it eventually accede to the Convention.

Also during the first half of this year, I made yet another attempt to visit Nepal.

Given the commitment to clear all mines in Nepal, I was hopeful that Nepal was prepared to engage in a discussion on accepting, as we have, a ban on any future use of anti-personnel mines.

Unfortunately, this may not be the case. Despite the best efforts of the United Nations to make arrangements for a visit, the Nepalese leadership did not appear to be ready to engage.

Looking forward to the second half of year, I am hopeful that I will be able to travel to Tuvalu in early August and I am investigating the possibility of visiting other States not parties as well.

I look forward to providing a further update on my efforts at the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties.