



NEW ZEALAND

**ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES
21-25 MAY 2012**

UNIVERSALISATION

**STATEMENT BY MS RAYLENE LIUFALANI
FIRST SECRETARY (DISARMAMENT)**

21 MAY 2012

Madame Co-Chair

New Zealand is strongly supportive of efforts to universalise the Convention. We appreciate in particular the sterling work undertaken by our current President, HE Prak Sokhonn of Cambodia and Special Envoy His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Husseini of Jordan.

Recent accessions to the Convention have been very welcome. We are particularly pleased that Tuvalu, our Pacific neighbour, has recently joined the Convention and we recognise the contribution made by HRH Prince Mired in this regard.

We warmly welcome Finland's recent accession and, like Belgium, hope that this will provide greater momentum to universalization of the Convention. In this connection, Somalia's announcement this morning that it will soon join the Convention is most welcome and we call on all other States not yet party to take similar steps.

New Zealand will continue to take all relevant opportunities to underscore the importance of the Convention and its universal application.

Madame Co-Chair

Reports of new use of anti-personnel mines in recent months are deeply concerning. Our focus here in this week of Standing Committee meetings is to prevent any future suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and to support those already affected to reintegrate fully into all aspects of their communities. The reports therefore that these mines have already caused civilian casualties and the possibility of more victims in the future is extremely troubling and underscores the importance of universality of, and adherence to, the Convention.

New Zealand deplores the use of anti-personnel landmines and calls for urgent steps to be taken to clear any contaminated land so that future victims can be prevented.