

***STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF
THE CONVENTION, GENEVA, 3 FEBRUARY 2003***

**The UN's Universalization Efforts
Presented by Polly Brennan, Global Landmines Coordinator, UNICEF**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to address the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention on behalf of the United Nations system.
- As you know, in 2001, the United Nations developed a 5 year strategy for mine action. In keeping with the 1998 UN mine action policy, advocacy was identified as a major goal, and as a result, a UN advocacy strategy is now being developed to ensure the most effective use of UN human, material and financial resources and to systematically increase public awareness of the impact of landmines and to promote the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention.
- Further, UNICEF, which has been an active advocate for a ban on landmines since the early days of the campaign, has included universalization of the Convention as one of the three goals of its mine action strategy, to be released later this week.
- The UN approach has been twofold:
 - At their annual meeting in 2002, UN mine action programme managers and advisors devoted a session to practical advocacy strategies for the field. All UN mine action personnel have briefing materials, including the VERTIC guide to Article 7 reports, the ICRC guide to Article 9 reports and materials developed by the Implementation support Unit.
- In addition, UNICEF has developed an advocacy kit for its country programmes and regional offices (also available to UN and other organizations) and is finalizing a Child's Right Guide to the Mine Ban Convention; and at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties in September 2002, the United Nations launched a briefing package which contains fact sheets describing the different articles of the Ottawa Convention and the type of assistance provided by the UN under each of those articles. Simultaneously, senior officials of the UN have continued to address the issue of landmines when meeting with Heads of Governments and other Senior Governmental Representatives and with non-state actors.
- Once again, I would like to thank the Co-Chairs for providing me the opportunity to highlight the UN family's efforts to promote the universal ratification and implementation of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention.