

**June 13, 2005**  
**Statement of Canada**  
**Update from the Universalization Contact Group**

On behalf of the Universalization Contact Group, Canada congratulates States Parties on the success of the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World. We welcomed the participation of twenty-five States not parties at the Summit and look forward to deeper engagement to come.

Through the adoption of the Nairobi Action Plan, **each State Party** has made a commitment to make every effort to bring into the Convention those states that remain outside. By our endorsement, we commit to attach “priority to effectively addressing universalization challenges presented by States not parties, and in particular those that continue to use produce, or possess large stockpiles of anti-personnel mines”. States Parties in the Middle East, Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States have made a particularly important commitment to play a key role in efforts to promote adherence in these challenging areas, where acceptance of the Convention remains low.

We encourage all States Parties to embrace the challenge issued by the Action Plan with the same spirit of cooperation and inspired commitment that has become a trademark of the Ottawa Convention. For its part, Canada looks forward to embracing the challenge issued by the Nairobi Action Plan, working with existing and new partners to ensure that we are constantly moving closer to the universal adoption of the Ottawa Convention.

In this regard, we have seen further progress in recent months. Canada was delighted at **Ethiopia’s** announcement of ratification during the Nairobi Summit. Congratulations are also due to **Ukraine, Latvia** and **Vanuatu**, which in recent weeks completed their internal accession and ratification processes. We encourage these countries to deposit their instruments with the UN Secretary General in the very near future so that they can be welcomed in Zagreb as States Parties to the Convention. It should be noted that the successful cooperation between states and other partners that has typified the Ottawa process was instrumental in bringing these countries on board.

States Parties welcomed **Somalia’s** announcement at the Nairobi Summit that it plans to join the Convention before the end of 2005. This accession would achieve a 100% adoption rate in Sub-Saharan Africa – a region that has set an example for the rest of the world to follow in universalizing the Ottawa Convention.

In South Asia, a region of particular challenge for universalization, Bhutan has announced its intent to accede to the Convention in 2005. We strongly support Bhutan’s efforts to complete the domestic approval process currently underway, in the near future.

Canada was pleased to co-organize with **Libya** a recent seminar in Tripoli that should be seen as an important step towards that country's accession to the Ottawa Convention.

Of those states who participated in the Nairobi Summit as observers, many did so for the first time in the Ottawa Process, and a number made noteworthy interventions. Some States not Parties, including **China, Mongolia** and **Sri Lanka**, have also now announced that they are considering or committed to submitting a voluntary transparency report in line with Article 7 of the Convention, and have underlined their unequivocal support for the goals of the Convention. We welcome such interim measures, and look forward to the enhanced movement that should follow.

To build on these successes, the Universalization Contact Group will meet this Thursday at one o'clock in the Attique restaurant on the top floor of this building. All are welcome to attend what we hope will be a vigorous action-oriented discussion that will help us fulfill the Nairobi Action Plan.

Thank you.