

**MINE BAN TREATY – STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MAY
2002**
**STATEMENT BY BRAZIL – OVERVIEW OF THE GENERAL
STATUS OF UNIVERSALIZATION**

Universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty must continue to be a primary concern of States Parties. It is regrettable that 90% of the world's existing stockpiles of landmines are located in countries that have chosen not to adhere to the Convention. If our goal of attaining a mine-free world is to be realized, further efforts are needed with a view to getting the largest stockpile holders to join the Treaty.

We are happy to learn that East Timor, the newest member State of the international community and a fellow Portuguese-speaking nation, has joined the Mine Ban Treaty. We congratulate East Timor on its decision, which we believe certainly contributes to the universalization of the Convention. Though East Timor is not mine-affected, it is highly symbolic that this newly-born nation has chosen to join the Mine Ban Treaty.

Brazil holds a strong commitment to contributing to the reconstruction of East Timor and actively participated in efforts to consolidate its transition to formal Statehood. The international community must continue to offer East Timor its assistance and cooperation and seek actively to contribute to its reconstruction and social and economic development.