

**Intersessional Standing Committee on  
the General Status and Operation of the Convention  
12 May 2003**

**ICBL intervention on universalisation  
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The ICBL congratulates Sao Tome et Principe for having completed the ratification of the Convention, and Timor Leste for its accession on 7 May last week bringing to 133 the number of States Parties to the Convention, only two more since the last time we all met. We congratulate Lithuania for its ratification, and the deposition of its instrument this week !

We thank Turkey and Greece for the good news that they just shared with us, and the confirmation that both countries would deposit their instrument of accession and ratification to the UN Secretary General, as they said they would do in April 2001.

We have also seen positive signals in Poland and Finland. This leads us to really wish that all current and future members of the European Union would be States Parties by the Review Conference and strengthen our determination to work to achieve this aim. We ask you all to join us in this effort.

Greater successes regarding the Universalisation of the Convention are also needed in Asia where we can find 21 of the 48 non States Parties and 5 of the Signatories. The accession by Timor Leste is a very positive sign but we encourage accession or ratifications of others Asian countries before the Meeting of States Parties, including Brunei, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea or Sri Lanka.... Some states say they are not in a position to join now, but they should be able to show their willingness to eradicate antipersonnel, clear mines, assist victims, stop producing, share information and adopt measures that will move them closer to their accession. We encourage all of you here to work in that direction too ....

In July, the ICBL will launch an action alert in July focusing on Asian non signatories countries; our Ambassador Tun Channareth will visit Indonesia in May; a delegation will visit Nepal in June to talk to Nepalese authorities as well as non states actors. This is a part of our effort to deal with the use of antipersonnel mines by NSAs and we encourage States to find ways to address this issue too.

We will hand over to India and Pakistan's governments thousands of signatures of the Youth Against War Treaty in New Dehli and Islamabad in September and this week in Geneva, our ambassador Jody Williams, survivors and all campaigners will meet non signatories States. This was just to mention a few of the events we plan as our share of the sustained and coordinated effort which is needed among States, NGOs, the movement of the Red Cross and the UN agencies to reach our goal of a mine free world and the universalisation of the Convention.