

**Canadian Statement – Universalization
10th Meeting of States Parties**

Thank-you Mr. President

It has now been three years since the last accession or ratification of the Convention. That said, there have been many positive signs that our Convention will continue to grow. Certainly Canada expects that by the Third Review Conference of our Convention, the numbers of States Parties should be within sight of 170. Since we gathered in Cartagena, there has been progress. We welcome the United States review of their anti-personnel mine policy and we remain ~~convinced~~^{hopeful} that they and other states that have been reticent will decide to join the Convention in the near, or possibly very near, future. Poland would appear to be targeting completion of its ratification process in 2011 and we have had continuing assurance that Finland will join us in 2012, perhaps early in that year. During a visit to Canada earlier this year, Mongolia assured us that it was on track to accede and it is Canada's belief that that accession could occur before our next formal meeting. Additionally we have had generally positive responses from several other states, including Bahrain, Lao PDR and Nepal.

Canada welcomed the initiative by the President of the Second Review Conference to appoint a Special Envoy on Universalization, and was particularly appreciative that His Royal Highness Prince Mired bin Ra'ad, agreed to take up the challenge this past year and we hope, for many years. His efforts this year in Bahrain, Lao PDR, Mongolia and the US, will no doubt bear fruit. Canada would also like to recognize the continuing efforts of our newest State Party, Palau in its universalization efforts in its region. Canada also welcomes the President's strong interest in continuing the tradition of active universalization efforts by the Presidency. We believe that the high level team of His Royal Highness and our President is sure to be an extremely potent force for universalization.

As many have said, time and again, full universalization must be our goal if we are to finally rid the world of this weapon of terror. Some States Parties may be willing to accept that the Convention has established a universal norm in that use of anti-personnel mines is almost non-existent. The "norm" is not enough - in reality many states that have not acceded to the Convention are prepared to use AP mines, many of their armies regularly train with AP mines, their stockpiles remain vast and these mines continue to pose a threat to people around the world.

Mr. Chair some would say that with 156 States Parties we have achieved our aim, the countries that remain outside of the Convention are determined to stay out and do not merit our continued universalization efforts. It is certainly Canada's view and the view of all that we have consulted, that our work is not yet done. We are indeed in a period in our universalization effort that is particularly challenging but that simply means that we all must work harder.

All States Parties endorsed the Cartagena Action Plan and the action which stated that "All States Parties will seize every opportunity to promote ratification of and accession to the Convention". Mr. Co-Chair, it is now time for all States Parties to take up that challenge and to convert those opportunities into action. We encourage every State Party to accept their responsibility to actively encourage accession or ratification in all bi-lateral and multi-lateral fora. With continued strong and persistent effort we will reach our collective goal of a mine-free world.

Thank You Mr. President