

**Tenth Meeting of the States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines
Geneva, 29 November – 3 December 2010**

ICRC Statement on universalisation

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the ICRC, let me begin by welcoming the interventions today and on Monday morning this week from States not parties to the Mine Ban Convention. In particular, we are encouraged to have heard from Mongolia, the USA, Laos, Nepal and Russia.

We were very pleased to hear that Mongolia has taken its step by step approach a step further and seeks to accede in the near future. We were also delighted to hear that preparations are on track in Finland and Poland for ratification in 2012.

Three years have passed without any new ratification of the AP Mine Ban Convention. Despite this apparent setback, the ICRC still believe that universal adherence to this convention and its norm is indispensable in a world where one State still emplaces new mines, where a number of armed groups use this weapon in their armed operations and where innocent victims continue to fall under these weapons almost every day.

The adherence of all States to this humanitarian treaty remains a priority for the ICRC. We are continuing our efforts to promote the universalisation of this Convention in bilateral contacts that we have with national authorities in States not party to the Convention. Since the Cartagena Review Conference, we conducted such bilateral discussions in particular in the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Nepal, Mongolia and the USA. In 2011, we hope to reinforce our universalisation efforts in the Gulf Region in the Middle East by organising a regional meeting and in Asia around the opportunities provided by the 11th meeting of States Parties in Cambodia.

As the President of the ICRC said on Monday, we hope to welcome new States Parties in Cambodia in a year and look forward in particular to a positive outcome of the current US policy review, and that of other States.

In closing we urge all States Parties to fulfil their commitment under the Cartagena Action Plan to 'seize every opportunity to promote' the convention and its norm and to join the efforts of Prince Mired and the Universalisation Contact Group. The ICRC would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank HRH Prince Mired of Jordan for his relentless support and his inspiration in his role of special envoy on universalisation. We would like to commend Palau, Japan and Australia for the leadership they are showing in their respective region for the promotion of the AP Mine Ban Convention. The ICRC would finally like to pay a special tribute to Canada for its relentless efforts in pursuance of this cause and for having led the Universalisation Contact Group efforts for more than a decade.