

**Report of the President's High Level Envoy on the Universalization
of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, His Royal Highness
Prince Mired Raad Al Hussein of Jordan**

Tenth Meeting of the States Parties

2 December 2010

Mr. President, dear friends:

In the final documents of the Cartagena Summit, we agreed that "attracting further adherents to the Convention has grown more difficult in recent years implying that future efforts to promote acceptance of the Convention and its norms will require intensive effort at as high a level as possible."

These are important words.

However, as you said earlier this week, Mr. President, we must ensure that we convert our words in concrete actions that produce meaningful results.

I am committed to doing my part. Therefore, I was honoured to have been asked by Ambassador Eckey to serve this year as her "Special Envoy on the Universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention."

It is my pleasure to report to you on the activities I have undertaken.

Thanks to support provided by Norway and the assistance of the ISU, I was able to carry out four visits: to the Lao PDR, the United States of America, Mongolia and Bahrain.

In all four instances, there was a fresh new outlook toward the Convention and efforts to review existing policy are underway.

With respect to the Lao PDR, I met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence as well as with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Director of the Lao PDR's national UXO authority.

Laos has clearly seen the benefits of engagement in a multilateral process through its leadership within the movement to ban cluster

munitions. My hope is that will also see the benefits of joining this process.

With respect to the USA, I met with two special advisors to President Obama who are leading the USA's landmines policy review process. In addition, I met with several assistant and deputy assistant secretaries from the State Department, Pentagon and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With the USA having demonstrated over the past two decades that it does not consider anti-personnel mines to factor into how it engages in war and defence, the costs to the USA of accession arguably are negligible. In contrast, the benefits of accession to the USA would be great given that it would demonstrate global leadership.

Dear friends: While I have done my part to engage the USA, it is now your turn to do the same.

The USA needs to hear directly from States Parties that we very much want the USA to be part of our movement and that the USA's global leadership would be key in getting other States to join the Convention.

My third visit this year was to Mongolia. My trip to Mongolia followed closely on the heels of a visit by the Mongolian Prime Minister to Canada.

As is reflected in the Geneva Progress Report, the Prime Ministers of Canada and Mongolia issued a joint statement in which Canada welcomed Mongolia's commitment to accede to the Convention.

I too met with the Prime Minister of Mongolia and also was assured of Mongolia's commitment to accede to the Convention.

In this meeting and with others, including with the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, it was clear that Mongolia shares our aims.

Mongolia has expressed to me that Mongolia will accede when suitable conditions exist.

Our task is to ensure Mongolia that conditions exist now and that are movement would be strengthened by Mongolia's participation.

My final visit took place a few short weeks ago to Bahrain where I met with the Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of Bahrain's

Defence Force, His Royal Highness Salman ibn Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifa.

The Crown Prince appreciated that I was able to hand deliver letters from you, Mr. President, and from the President of the Second Review Conference in which Bahrain was asked to give consideration to accession to the Convention.

The Crown Prince was very open to our appeal but now it rests with all States Parties for follow-up.

As I mentioned, I will do what I can. However, the Cartagena was agreed to by all of us. Hence, we all have accepted the commitment, in Action #1 of the Cartagena Action Plan, to "seize every opportunity to promote ratification of and accession to the Convention, in particular in regions with low adherence to the Convention."

In closing, Mr. President, please allow me to thank Norway for supporting my efforts and the ISU for assisting me.

I wish to thank the follow:

- The United Nations for the support I received with respect to my visit to Laos and Japan for accompanying me on this visit,
- Canada, for the assistance I received in arranging my visit to Mongolia and for its overall leadership as coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group, and, finally,
- The ICBL, and its member organizations, and, the ICRC, for their excellent collaboration on universalization.

Finally, Mr. President: Please I cannot stress enough that universalization is the responsibility of all of us.

It is not enough say that more should be done on universalization. Rather, we must actually do something on universalization.

You can count on me, Mr. President, to stay engaged.

However, I would appeal to all States Parties to regularly highlight, at the highest possible level, the need for States not parties to join our common cause.