

UNIVERSALIZATION

Agenda Item 10.C

President of the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties

1 December 2011

At the close of the 10MSP I indicated that universalization would be one of my priorities.

I also reported that, like my predecessor Susan Eckey of Norway, I asked Prince Mired of Jordan if he would again act as Special Envoy on Universalization. He accepted and we should all be grateful for this.

I am also grateful that the Government of Norway

Regarding my own activities, my main aim was to coordinate well with universalization partners.

One of my first acts therefore was to convene a workshop in Tirana for universalization partners. This was extremely useful to discuss how we could make good use of the comparative advantages of different universalization actors.

I also sought to engage States Parties. This included meeting with the Permanent Representatives of Finland and Poland in Geneva and the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan in Vienna.

Also in Vienna, as noted the Phnom Penh Progress Report, I called for all European and Central Asian States to join the Convention at an address to the 650th plenary meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security and Cooperation.

In the second half of my mandate, I sought to visit Morocco to exchange views on the Convention and engage in more general discussions regarding the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines.

However, on the eve of my intended visit to Morocco, I have still not received confirmation regarding the specific timing of appointments with senior officials, nor had I have received other pertinent information regarding my programme.

I was therefore left with no other choice than to cancel this mission.

I deeply regretted this.

Morocco's stated position that accession to the Convention is a strategic objective of Morocco has given the Convention community some optimism that Morocco may have been ready to take the next step towards acceptance of the Convention and its norms.

I would conclude that perhaps Morocco may not yet be ready to engage in a discussion on this matter.

I sought to assure Morocco, however, that the Convention's leadership remains committed to working closely with Morocco once it is prepared to move toward joining 158 of the world's States in this important humanitarian cause.

In the context of universalization of the Convention's norms, I would like to recall that as President I issued press statements issuing deep concern with new anti-personnel mine use by States not parties.

While new use of anti-personnel mines is now rare, I would encourage not only the Presidency but all States Parties to forcefully express concern should there be any instances of violations of our Convention's norms in the future.