



Agenda item 10(d)

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention Universalizing the Convention

Friday 2 December

Once again the United Nations wishes to commend the continued efforts by His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan, as the President's Special Envoy for Universalization, as well as those by the Universalization Contact Group and other partners in advocating for a mine free world. We thank Canada for having chaired the Contact Group and look forward to working with Belgium, the new Chair.

Since the Tenth Meeting of States Parties, we have witnessed the accession to the Treaty of two states, Tuvalu and South Sudan. We congratulate them for their support to the universalization of the international norm contained in the Mine Ban Convention. We hope other states will follow this example. In this regard, the ratification of the Convention by Finland's Parliament just last week, and the country's imminent accession to the Convention, is very much welcomed. We also recall and look forward to Poland's stated intention to ratify the Convention in 2012.

We do, however, express grave concern that, despite progress in this regard, some states and non-state actors were involved in new use of anti-personnel mines since the last Meeting of States Parties. This situation highlights the importance of continued universalization efforts, including those aiming at eliciting commitments for a mine ban from non-state actors.

We also wish to remind that full success of the Convention and the achievement of a vision of a mine free world also hinges on comprehensive and faithful implementation of its provisions and humanitarian aims. With 158 states now having ratified or acceded to the Convention, prioritized focus should be given to ensuring timely and effective compliance by States Parties of their treaty obligations. We all must do our utmost – States Parties, NGOs, civil society, and the United Nations – to ensure that all stockpiles are destroyed within stated deadlines and that extensions of Article 5 obligations are requested only after all avenues to meet deadlines have been fully exhausted.

As noted in the Phnom Penh Progress Report, UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes have continued to promote the universalization of the Convention. In addition, the Secretary-General has continued to call for countries to join the Convention during the April 4 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, as well as during meetings of States Parties.