

**Statement on Universalization**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty**  
**1 December 2015**



Thank you Mr President.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines welcomes the participation of \_\_\_\_\_ states not yet party to the Mine Ban Treaty in this meeting. It is also a positive sign that 17 states not party voted in favor of the resolution on the implementation of the treaty at the recent First Committee meeting; that is about half of all those states that have yet to join. The Mine Ban Treaty is one of the most universally accepted treaties, and the majority of states outside the treaty abide by its core provisions: they do not use, produce or sell antipersonnel landmines.

It is regrettable that no state has joined since Oman last August, but the ICBL believes that all states should be able to join the treaty, a view reinforced by the United States' announcement last year that it is working toward accession.

The Mine Ban Treaty was opened for signature 18 years ago this week. In 18 years, states have demonstrated that national security can be ensured without using antipersonnel landmines. Landmines don't enhance security – they bring devastation, they kill and maim civilians, and they hamper economic development. To states not party: please join the treaty immediately. If you are not likely to join soon, take interim measures. For example:

- ◆ Adopt a national moratorium on the use, production and transfer of antipersonnel mines
- ◆ Clear mined areas to humanitarian standards
- ◆ Provide assistance to victims
- ◆ Provide information about stockpiles of mines, and take steps to destroy stocks
- ◆ Submit a voluntary transparency report
- ◆ Vote in favor of the annual UN General Assembly resolution this year

All states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty are in a position to take one or more of these steps. In that respect, the ICBL was pleased last month to be informed by the sole manufacturer in Singapore that it will no longer produce landmines or cluster munitions.

To States Parties: please do include the landmine issue in your bilateral engagement with states not party; engagement at the highest levels is important. Universal adherence to the treaty is possible, as long as States Parties keep the issue on the international agenda. In the Maputo +15 Declaration adopted last year, states committed to work to prevent any future use of landmines, and promised to appeal to the world to join the treaty. We trust that you will translate those commitments into action. The ICBL will continue working together with all of you for the full universalization of the treaty and its norms.

Over 60 non-state armed groups have committed to ban the use of landmines, many through the efforts of Geneva Call, an ICBL member. Dialogue with non-state armed groups also supports clearance, such as in Syria and Colombia this year, and stockpile destruction, such as in Western Sahara this year. A group directly involved in the hostilities in Northern Iraq signed Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment in June. A number of other ICBL members also engage with non-state armed groups, including in the Philippines and Myanmar.

Thank you.