



# ICRC

## **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Statement on Universalization Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 17th Meeting of States Parties**

**Geneva, 26-30 November 2018**

At the outset, the ICRC would like to congratulate Palestine as the 164<sup>th</sup> state party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

This week, we are celebrating the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of this important treaty. With 164 states parties we have come a long way, but there is still progress to be made to bring to an end the use of anti-personnel mines and the suffering that these weapons cause.

One more quarter of states to adhere before this treaty is universal – while we applaud the concerted efforts of States, international organisations and civil society to continue this work of universalisation, we urge you all to continue your efforts to ensure that more states become a party and end any use, transfer, stockpiling and production of these weapons which continue to cause horrendous injuries and death to civilians and soldiers alike. In the ICRC's view, any use of anti-personnel mines is unacceptable.

The ICRC urges all states that are not yet a party and that continue to have stocks of land mines to reassess the need for these weapons in light of their limited military utility and their predictable and severe humanitarian harm.

As its contribution to the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan, the ICRC continues to promote adherence to the Convention in bilateral dialogue with these States not party to the Convention, in multilateral fora and in the numerous training sessions on IHL it organises each year. We also provide technical support to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies working in this area. We will continue these efforts and to contribute to the ongoing partnership with States Parties and other organisations to bring about universal adherence to the Convention as quickly as possible.

We were delighted that on 13 December 2017 the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka acceded to the Convention and thereby undertook faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained. And shortly afterwards in February this year we worked with the government of Sri Lanka on a programme to implement this treaty.

Also in February this year, we held a 20th anniversary event in Ethiopia focusing on the treaty but also on demining and on our physical rehabilitation programs in the country.

We are in the process of assisting in the drafting of legislation implementing the Convention in a number of countries, and we would also like to take a moment to say a few words about the adoption of national legislation to implement the Convention. As we know from earlier meetings and the intersessional work there are a significant number of States Parties that

have not yet adopted or adjusted national law to implement the core obligations of the Convention. Although this issue has not been the subject of dedicated discussion at this meeting, we continue to urge all States to adopt such legislation and the ICRC stands ready to support those states that have not yet done so.

The ICRC would like to commend Prince Mired for his long commitment and efforts on universalization and to Afghanistan for the leadership that it has shown during its Presidency. Their efforts and those of all other States Parties will continue to be essential as we advance the goal of universal adherence.

Thank you.