



**17th Meeting of States Parties to the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

**Statement by Katy Donnelly
Deputy Permanent Representative to the
Conference on Disarmament, Geneva**

Universalisation

30 November 2018

Thank you Madam President.

My delegation wishes to place on record our appreciation for your report on universalisation over the past year and for your efforts and those of your team, in promoting uptake of the Convention in your role as its current President. We are also deeply grateful for the extensive outreach undertaken by the Special Envoys and agree with the comments made this morning regarding the need for high level engagement and grass roots action to really make progress on the remaining universalisation challenges. We welcome that our Convention now enjoys the support of 164 States but it is clear we have further work to do to accomplish the goals we set ourselves in Maputo and to achieve universalisation of the Convention. We welcome, too, the positive indications from Lebanon this morning.

This task remains imperative. The latest issue of the Landmine Monitor records 7239 casualties from landmines and other explosive remnants of war in 2017 – with almost 3000 people killed and nearly four and a half thousand injured, nearly 90% of whom are civilians. This high total reflects many new casualties in areas of ongoing armed conflict and large-scale violence, including Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, Iraq, Myanmar and Lebanon. We are deeply concerned that, for the second year in a row, the highest numbers in Monitor

history were recorded in 2017 for child casualties, and for casualties caused by improvised mines. These statistics represent families and communities which have already endured the horror and hardship of conflict, and which now face additional and deeply personal challenges to recovery.

New Zealand also notes with deep concern the Landmine Monitor's reporting on use of antipersonnel mines by Myanmar, which is not a party to our Convention. New Zealand continues to condemn in the strongest terms any use of anti-personnel landmines by anyone, anywhere.

New Zealand continues to encourage all non-States Parties to the Convention to join as soon as possible. To this end, New Zealand, with our close neighbour Australia, was pleased to host a meeting for the Pacific Islands in February 2018 to take stock of conventional weapons treaties including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. As noted in the Auckland Declaration adopted by the Conference, all but three Pacific States are party to the Convention, a reflection of "the region's desire to show global solidarity with affected states around the world and to help build momentum towards a truly universal norm against these inhumane weapons". However, competing priorities and resource constraints have meant that a number of these States Parties have yet to provide for full implementation of the Convention and some are behind in the fulfilment of their reporting obligations. At the Conference, several States Parties committed to fulfilling their outstanding reporting requirements as soon as possible; others undertook to review the need for domestic implementing legislation and some States not yet party to the AP Mine Ban Convention undertook to promote membership among relevant domestic stakeholders. New Zealand will continue its strong support for universalisation of the Convention and will monitor progress in our region and more widely.

Thank you Madam President.