

Mine Ban Convention – Third Review Conference

Monday 23 June

Statement by Australia

Universalisation

Mr President

- . Australia congratulates you on your election as President to this meeting and offers you its support. We would also like to thank Mozambique for its excellent hospitality as host of this Review Conference.
- . Australia would like to take this opportunity to recognise and warmly thank the Special Envoys to the Convention, His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan and Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium for their commendable efforts in promoting universalisation of the Convention.
- . Australia greatly appreciates the efforts of Belgium as Coordinator of the Universalisation Contact Group.
 - We welcome Belgium’s creative thinking in this role, including having suggested an initiative to establish networks of locally-based representatives of States Parties to advocate universalisation as “Friends of the Convention”.
 - We remain supportive of the concept, and believe that it has the potential to assist and inspire more States Parties to engage in universalisation efforts in more effective ways.
- . Australia continues to encourage universal adherence to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, particularly among our neighbours in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - Since the Second Review Conference in Cartagena we have actively promoted and supported the Convention in a number of ways amongst our Pacific island neighbours.
 - Australia supported the first and second Pacific regional workshops which discussed approaches to addressing the problems of explosive remnants of war in the Pacific including by joining the Convention.
 - We have been a long-term supporter of the work of civil society groups such as the ICBL/CMC in promoting universalisation of the Convention.
 - We have also been a long-term supporter of the important work of Geneva Call in promoting a ban on the use of anti-personnel mines amongst non state actors.
- . We believe all States Parties should continue to advocate and support actions to achieve universal adherence to the Convention and its norms.
 - We therefore support the commitment of States Parties to promote universalisation demonstrated in the Maputo Action Plan, in particular Action #1 and #2
 - We also appreciate that better coordination of actions to promote universalisation, as highlighted by Action #3, could help make our efforts more effective.
- . Australia takes this opportunity to commend, the enormous contribution of the United Nations, civil society and NGOs in maintaining momentum towards universalisation of the Convention. Our advocacy for universalisation is underpinned by your efforts and a

complementary working partnership between states' diplomacy and civil society campaigning is essential to success.

- . We also welcome the efforts of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), who have continued to advocate strongly for universal adherence.
 - In this context, we thank the Implementation Support Unit for its assistance to the first Pacific regional explosive remnants of war workshop, as it was particularly supportive in promoting and raising awareness towards the universalisation of the Convention.
- . Australia will continue to seek new opportunities to promote universalisation of the Convention and support where we can the work of other agencies in pursuing this important goal.

I thank you.