



## **European Union**

### **EU Statement on Universalisation Intersessional meetings Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Geneva, 7-8 June 2018**

Madam President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank you for your active engagement to promote universalisation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We are also grateful to Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium and His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan for their long-standing commitment to promote the Convention.

For the European Union and its Member States, promoting universal adherence to the Ottawa Convention is one of the top priorities in the area of human security and disarmament. In our political dialogues on non-proliferation and disarmament with third countries, universalisation is a recurring topic. We welcome the recent accessions and urge all States to join this Convention without delay.

In order to achieve further progress towards universalisation, a project under the 2017 EU Council Decision is being carried out by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to support the Presidency of the Convention and a High Level Task Force in their efforts to engage non-States Parties at political level. In March 2018, a visit took place to Sri Lanka whom we welcome as one of the newest States Parties to the Convention. We would also like to draw your attention to an important visit of the High Level Task Force, led by His Royal Highness

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\* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Prince Mired, to Myanmar on 28-30 May 2018 and we look forward to learning about the Task Force's findings.

This EU project seeking to promote the universalisation of the Convention will also identify barriers which may hinder adherence to the Convention and report findings to the Fourth Review Conference in 2019. Furthermore, the project will enable the ISU to continue and further develop the study on border security which was initiated under the previous EU Council Decision. It could be used to promote the Convention vis-à-vis States that still consider anti-personnel mines an indispensable tool for border security.

While continuing our overall efforts towards universalisation, we believe that progress can also be made by embracing, as a first step, the norms of the Convention and implementing effectively concrete measures to that end. We encourage non-States Parties to make a statement on their respective measures for example at meetings of the Convention. Once again, we invite the remaining 33 States not yet party to this Convention to work with us to reach our aspiration to meet the goals of the Convention to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

Thank you, Madam President