



ICRC

**Statement on Universalization
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional Meeting
6-7 June 2018**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is pleased that the number of States Parties to this Convention continues to rise. This added to the sense of accomplishment and celebration that surrounded the Convention's 20th anniversary in December of last year. The ICRC is pleased to welcome Sri Lanka and Palestine as the newest States Parties to the Convention.

One-hundred and sixty-four States are now party to this important treaty of international humanitarian law – a treaty that is a resounding example of how States and organizations can collectively work together to respond to the widespread suffering caused by indiscriminate weapons. Each and every year, we see tangible results – we see how the Convention is saving lives and limbs and helping affected families and communities.

Of course, we know that 32 States remain outside of this treaty. We also know that most, if not all of them, support the goal of a mine-free world. But in-principle support for that future goal is not enough. Anti-personnel mines are impacting on the lives of people in many contexts today and we urge all States to accede to the Convention without further delay. The goal of a mine-free world must arrive sooner, rather than later.

Joining the Convention is all the more urgent because, as we have heard, there has been a disturbing increase in the number of mine-related casualties in the past few years. This is a stark reminder of the need to continue to enhance our universalization efforts and to address our messages to all parties to the armed conflicts where such weapons are being used. Any use of anti-personnel mines is unacceptable.

As its contribution to the goal of a mine-free world, 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 that we organise each year. We also provide technical support to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies working in this area. Many National Societies and ICRC delegations used the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Convention to place articles and host events raising awareness of the Convention and the need for continued commitment to the goal of a mine-free world. We will continue these efforts and contribute to the ongoing partnership with States Parties and other organizations to bring about universal adherence to the Convention, and its full implementation, as quickly as possible.