



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Meetings of the Standing Committees, 27-30 May 2013**

Universalisation

**Statement by New Zealand
27 May 2013**

Thank you Mr Co-Chair. New Zealand remains a firm supporter of the continuing work to universalise this most important Convention. In this context, we warmly welcome the work this year of our President, Ambassador Kovacic, and the continuing and very energetic efforts, including in our own region of the Pacific, by the Special Envoy on Universalisation, Prince Mired of Jordan. We also recognise Belgium's very important work as coordinator of the Contact Group.

We have, however, seen only one new accession to the Convention since the last Meeting of States Parties, and we certainly congratulate Poland on its accession and note the importance of this Saturday as the date on which the Convention will enter into force for Poland. We do not read this as an indication that universalisation efforts are flagging. Indeed, with 161 States Parties, this Convention is a real success story and a model in terms of its rapid pace towards universalisation and in terms of its normative impact. Of course, efforts to achieve universalisation continue, and as the number of non-adherents is whittled down from 36, its tempo will only need to be intensified. In this regard, New Zealand particularly welcomes the attendance at this meeting of a number of states not party to the Convention and calls on them, and other non-signatory states, to join the Convention as soon as possible.

Thank you Mr Co-Chair.