



European Union

**EU Statement on Universalisation
16th Meeting of States Parties to the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Vienna, 18-21 December 2017**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Andorra.

We would like to thank the Austrian Presidency for its active engagement in promoting 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 in promoting the Convention and providing the necessary visibility to our efforts.

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 warmly welcome Sri Lanka as the 163rd State Party and we urge all States to join this Convention without delay.

In order to achieve further progress towards universalisation, the new EU Council Decision will support the Presidency of the Convention and a High Level Task Force in their efforts to engage non-States Parties at political level. This project, to be carried out by the Implementation Support Unit, will also identify barriers which may hamper adherence to the Convention and report findings to the Fourth Review Conference in 2019. Furthermore, the project will allow the continuation of a 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.

The EU strongly condemns the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor, whether States or non-State actors. The EU appeals to all to refrain from the manufacture, trade and use of anti-personnel mines.

* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

While continuing our overall efforts towards universalisation, we believe that progress can be also made by embracing, as a first step, the norms of the Convention and implementing effectively concrete measures to that end. We invite all States not yet party to this Convention to work with us in this regard.

At this 20th anniversary year, we reiterate our full support to the objectives of the Convention, its universalisation and implementation of the Maputo Action Plan in order to fulfil the aspiration to achieve an anti-personnel mine free world by 2025.

Thank you, Mr. President