



European Union

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 17th Meeting of States Parties Geneva, 26-30 November 2018

EU Statement on Universalisation

Madam President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, 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 the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank you and the Afghan Presidency for your 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 to promote the Convention.

We welcome the recent accessions, which have brought the number of States Parties to 164, and urge all States, who have not yet done so, to join this Convention without delay. We also welcome the commitments made by States not party to the Convention on compliance with the obligations of the Convention, but nevertheless call on them to accede the Convention as soon as possible.

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

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

All EU Member States are party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Promoting universal adherence is one of the EU's top priorities in the area of human security and disarmament. In our political dialogues on non-proliferation and disarmament with third countries, universalisation of the Convention is a recurring topic.

In order to achieve further progress towards universalisation, the EU is supporting the Presidency of the Convention and the 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. In May 2018, the High Level Task Force, led by His Royal Highness Prince Mired, visited Myanmar to convince the authorities to join the Convention without delay. This universalisation project, funded by the EU, 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 in support of the Convention. It could be used to promote the Convention vis-à-vis States that still consider anti-personnel mines an indispensable tool for border security.

Once again, we invite the remaining 33 States not yet party to work with all States Parties to reach our aspiration to meet the goals of the Convention to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

Thank you, Madam President