



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and  
Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States-Parties

Geneva, Switzerland

30 November 2018

Statement by Ireland on Universalisation

*Check against delivery*

Madam President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union; I will add the following remarks in our national capacity.

As of this meeting, the Ottawa Convention has 164 States Parties. This represents circa 80% of the world's States, making this Convention one of the most universal disarmament instruments in existence. This number also includes the majority of the States that at one time used, stockpiled, produced or transferred anti-personnel mines, and the majority of States that are or have been affected by anti-personnel mines.

We should all be proud of this achievement, but we must also be mindful of the challenges that remain in getting to universal adherence. We cannot ignore the fact that over 30 States, including some major possessors and producers of anti-personnel landmines, remain outside the Convention. As long as States remain outside of the Convention, continuing to produce or stockpile anti-personnel mines or reserving their right to use them, anti-personnel mines will remain a persistent threat to civilian lives, both within and outside conflict zones and during and after conflicts.

The achievements of the Ottawa Convention are due in part to a norm against the use of anti-personnel mines that the Convention has helped to establish. But the absence of even one State from the Convention undermines that norm and is used to justify the continued production and use of anti-personnel mines by others, including by non-state actors.

Madam President,

Ireland is, as ever, fully committed to promoting universalisation of the Convention. We must continue to place universalisation at the heart of our efforts until every State joins the 'Ottawa Community'. Ireland continues to support this aim through the fulfilment of the Maputo Action Plan, which calls

for continuing efforts to pursue universal adherence and acceptance of the Convention's norms. We hope to see a similar commitment at next year's Review Conference and in future Action Plans.

Ireland continues to take every opportunity to encourage States not party to the convention to accede to it. We have used and will continue to use our network of Embassies and close relations with a number of States, including in Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia to promote the Convention, even where the signals have been disappointing to date. We regularly raise it in the context of high level bilateral meetings.

We have also used multilateral opportunities, and military to military contact, to open and maintain dialogue on universalisation and we will continue to do so as part of our efforts to achieve universalisation of the Convention. We look forward to hearing from fellow States Parties and to discussing how we might make further progress towards universalisation in the near future.

Thank you for the floor, Madam President.