

4MSP - STATEMENT OF AUSTRIA

“Declaration on Promoting the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

We, the Partners and Observers in the Human Security Network, Austria, Canada, Chile, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, The Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland and Thailand, remain strongly committed to further strengthening the humanitarian norm that has been established by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. This Convention was born out of the determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties by anti-personnel mines, that kill or maim innocent and defenseless people, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons and have other severe consequences many years after emplacement. The Convention has set an international humanitarian norm that is working beyond its membership.

We stress our conviction that no conceivable military utility of anti-personnel mines could possibly outweigh and justify the devastating humanitarian costs of these weapons.

We emphasize therefore the desirability of attracting the adherence of all those states that are not yet formally bound by the Convention and are determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of universalization of the Convention.

In this context, we welcome the recent ratification of the Convention by Chile, a partner in the Human Security Network, and the ratifications of or accessions to the Convention by Algeria, Angola, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Nigeria, and Suriname.

In addition, we are also encouraged by the steps taken by other states to be formally bound by the Convention, including Greece, a partner in the Human Security Network, and Turkey, as well as Afghanistan. “

End of quote.

Of course, we are very pleased that the last part of the declaration – although only 6 days after its adoption - has already been overtaken by events. We wish to congratulate Afghanistan for having deposited its instruments of accession, as well Comoros and the Central African Republic for the steps they have taken to the same

end and we look forward to working with them as States Parties within the framework of our Convention.

In addition to the declaration, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the name of the member states of the Human Security Network, has sent letters to all ministers for foreign affairs on Non-States-Parties urging them to ratify or accede to the Convention.

The text of the Human Security Network declaration is available in the back of the room.

Thank you