

## PRESIDENT OF THE 8MSP – STATEMENT ON UNIVERSALIZATION

It was my honour as President to undertake efforts to advance the core aims of the Convention between the 8MSP and 9MSP.

This included being extremely active in promoting universal acceptance of the Convention.

In particular, I sought to engage States not parties to the Convention in an exchange views on the Convention and more generally on the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines.

I was interested in particular in engaging some States Parties that have firmly resisted joining our common effort.

During my term as President, I visited Finland, the Republic of Korea, Poland, Singapore and the United States of America.

I called upon each to accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

My message to each was simple – that the world would be a better place if they joined with us in ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

I acknowledge to each that decisions to accede to international instruments must be taken seriously by each sovereign State. Security concerns no doubt need to be taken into account.

However, this should not prevent accession as soon as possible.

I told representatives of these States that, as a representative of country in the heart of the turbulence of the Middle East, I can appreciate giving due attention to national security.

I mentioned that my country has chosen to ensure its national security through means other than through the use of anti-personnel mines.

I noted that I have personally overseen the process of removing all mines along a border with a country with which Jordan was once at war and I am now proceeding with efforts to clear our last remaining border minefields.

I should add that it was merely a coincidence that each State I visited is an advanced, developed State with modern armed forces.

Again, this was merely a coincidence as all States that have not joined the Convention are potential targets of my universalization actions.

However, for these highly developed States – many of which have long humanitarian traditions – I had a special message.

I remarked that anti-personnel mines have become irrelevant for modernized military forces that have adopted the use of light, precise and lethal weapons and which emphasize the need for highly mobile forces.

That is, not only are these weapons abhorrent from a humanitarian point of view, but they are also weapons that can be easily replaced.

I was grateful that I was well received by each State that I visited and am pleased with the openness with which each engaged in dialogue with me.

I would encourage all States Parties to continue engaging these and other States not parties.