



**North Pacific Regional Workshop on the
Pursuit of the Aims of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

15 August 2008

Message to participants

**His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan
President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the
Use, Stockpiling Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

For the past year I have had the honour to preside over the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (“Ottawa Convention”). During my term as President, it has been my preoccupation that the world does not forget that there is important unfinished business in our pursuit of a world without anti-personnel mines. While great progress has been made, the international community needs to continue its efforts to clear mined areas, to assist the victims and to pursue universal acceptance of the Ottawa Convention’s comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines.

It is for this reason that I am delighted that you have gathered in Palau to discuss the pursuit of the aims of the Convention in the North Pacific. While the States whose leaders and officials are present for this workshop may not have stockpiled anti-personnel mines to destroy or mined areas to clear, they too can play an important role in ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. This was illustrated well in Jordan at the November 2007 Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP) by the Honourable Minister of State of the Republic of Palau, Mr. Tommy L. Shmull. At that 8MSP, Minister Shmull stated that while Palau is not affected by anti-personnel mines, it is Palau’s perspective that the whole world shares a “common heritage of humanity” and that it sees its “moral obligation and responsibility” to do its part in seeing that the ban on anti-personnel mines becomes universal.

I salute Minister Shmull and the government of the Republic of Palau for demonstrating that all sovereign States can demonstrate leadership on important humanitarian issues regardless of size. To the leaders and officials of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, I wish to express my sincere hope that your States too will join the community of States that has accepted that the limited military utility of anti-personnel mines is greatly outweighed by their devastating humanitarian impact. I would be delighted if your ratification of or accession to the Convention took place during my presidency, prior to or at the 24-28 November Ninth Meeting of the States Parties.

I wish you all the best for a successful workshop.

H.R.H. Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein
President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties

President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties & Chair of the Coordinating Committee
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