

**Canadian Statement – Universalization
June 2010 Intersessional Meeting**

Thank-you Mr. Co-Chair

It has now been almost three years since the last accession or ratification of the Convention. That however, does not mean that our work is done. There has been progress; we welcome the decision by the United States to review their anti-personnel mine policy and we remain convinced that other states that have been reticent will decide to join the Convention in the future. We have had continuing assurance that both Poland and Finland will join us by 2012 and we have had generally positive responses from several other states.

Canada welcomes the initiative by the Norwegian President of the Second Review Conference to appoint a Special Envoy on Universalization, and was particularly appreciative that His Royal Highness Prince Mired bin Ra'ad, agreed to take up the challenge this year and we hope, for many years. His efforts in the US and Laos, and soon in Nepal and Mongolia, hopefully will bear fruit. Canada would also like to recognize the efforts of our newest State Party, Palau in its universalization efforts in its region.

As Canada and others have said, time and again, full universalization must be our goal if we are to finally rid the world of this horrific weapon. Some States Parties are willing to accept that the Convention has established a universal norm in that use of anti-personnel mines is almost non-existent. The "norm" is not enough - in reality many states that have not acceded to the Convention are prepared to use AP mines, many of their armies regularly train with AP mines and these mines continue to pose a threat to people around the world.

Mr. Chair some would say that with 156 States Parties we have achieved our aim, the countries that remain outside of the Convention are determined to stay out and do not merit our continued universalization efforts. It is certainly Canada's view and the view of the active members of the Universalization Contact Group, that our work is not yet done. We are indeed in a period in our universalization effort that is particularly challenging but that simply means that we must intensify our efforts.

All States Parties endorsed the Cartagena Action Plan which specifically stated that "All States Parties will seize every opportunity to promote ratification of and accession to the Convention". Mr. Co-Chair, it is now time for all States Parties to take on that challenge and to convert those opportunities into action. We encourage each State Party to take up their responsibility as stated in the preamble of the Convention "*Emphasizing the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to this Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization in all relevant fora.*" With continued effort we will reach our collective goal of a mine-free world.

Mr. Co-Chair the next meeting of the Universalization Contact Group will be held on Thursday at 13:00 in the Salon Panoramique and we encourage all interested States Parties to participate.