

**Statement by Steven Costner**  
**United States Delegation to the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties**  
**to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and**  
**Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction**  
**December 1, 2011**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States is pleased to attend the Ottawa Convention's Eleventh Meeting of States Parties. We congratulate Cambodia for hosting this important event. We also congratulate our colleagues in Central America on being the first region to declare itself mine-impact free.

At the Second Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention in Cartagena, Colombia, the United States announced that we were undergoing a review of our landmine policy. While no decisions have been made, I can assure you that the review is active and ongoing, and we are making real progress. Until the policy review is completed and decisions have been announced, current U.S. landmine policy remains in effect.

As many of you know, in the course of this review the United States has sought a wide range of views, including those of international organizations, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, former U.S. government officials, and other states — both Parties to the Ottawa Convention and those that are not. This has been a valuable process and the input we received from these consultations is being taken into account as part of our review.

The United States applauds the significant accomplishments to date by Parties to the Ottawa Convention in addressing the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel landmines, and we remain committed to a continuing partnership with other states and non-governmental organizations in this effort.

Thank you, Mr. President.