

AMB. HAJNOCZI

**14. Vertragsstaatenkonferenz der Antipersonenminenverbotskonvention, Genf,  
30. November bis 4. Dezember 2015**

**Elemente für österreichische Wortmeldungen**

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*[TOP 2.a. Presentation, reporting, discussion and decision with regard to  
Universalization ]*

Mr Chair,

As this is the first time I take the floor, let me congratulate you on your election as president of this meeting, and assure you of the full support of the Austrian delegation during this conference.

Let me also thank you for the update on the Convention's universalisation that you have just presented.

On this point, Austria fully aligns herself with the Statement of the representative of the European Union (to be) delivered earlier (later) in this debate. In particular, Austria joins in commending the tremendous energy and commitment displayed in a sustained way by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium and His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan in their capacity as EU Envoys on universalisation.

In addition, let me offer a few remarks on universalisation from a national perspective.

With currently 162 States Parties, the Convention unites a large majority of the World's States. However, States not Parties today still represent a significant part both of the earth's surface and its population. Some of those States share the Convention's humanitarian aspirations and behave according to its norms. Such an attitude is of course very welcome, although it does not substitute for formal adherence to the Convention.

More worryingly, some of the States not Parties still possess large stocks of antipersonnel mines, have extensive minefields on their territories and no intention to clear them, or even continue to lay new minefields.

In order to achieve our shared goal of a world free from antipersonnel mines, there is no alternative to further enhancing our efforts to bring as many States not yet Party as possible under the Convention, as soon as possible.