

Opening Statement
17th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
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The Mine Ban Treaty is the origin point of modern humanitarian disarmament. There is a before and after the treaty.

Thanks to humanitarian disarmament, the international community has learned how to go beyond narrow national security interests on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

The treaty set the bar high, demonstrating that if the existing disarmament institutions will not meet humanitarian standards and fulfill the needs, then multilateralism will find its own way.

This was replicated with the Convention on Cluster Munitions, then it was a reference in the global movements for the Arms Trade Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and in the incipient drive to ban autonomous weapons systems.

These instruments and movements have another thing in common, which is civil society working in collaboration with governments, from all regions of the world, while survivors and members of affected communities are also actively involved.

The Mine Ban Treaty is alive and strong, and its influence will continue well into this century. To make the most of our strengths, this community must be humble, flexible and open-minded enough to learn from the younger humanitarian disarmament processes, and also from other multilateral fora on human rights and sustainable development.

In this year before the Review Conference, we can draw ideas from new sources while we continue to inspire others with our continuing success.

We will be pleased to work with you all to this end, this week and beyond.

Thank you.