



# ICRC

## **Nineteen Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

**The Hague, 15-19 November 2021**

### **International Committee of the Red Cross**

#### **Statement on universalization**

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, on behalf of the ICRC, let me thank you Mr. President for your leadership and commitment to promote universal adherence to the Convention.

Anti-personnel mines continue to endanger the lives and limbs of people in many contexts today. According to the Landmine Monitor Report, there were more than 7,000 casualties of mines and explosive remnants of war recorded in 2020 – a sharp increase compared with the 2019 figure. Civilians accounted for at least 80% of these casualties. From mid-2020 to October 2021, the Landmine Monitor has recorded new use of anti-personnel mines, including those of improvised nature, by government armed forces of one State (not party to this Convention) and by armed non-State actors on the territory of at least 6 States.

Despite this reality, there has been no new State Party to the Convention in the last four years, keeping the number of States Parties to 164. The ICRC thus calls on States Parties to increase their efforts, including through regional approaches, to urge all States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention without delay. States Parties must also urge all States and parties to armed conflict to already now renounce the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines.

The ICRC continues to promote universalization of the Convention and understanding of its obligations in a number of countries and contexts, where we also work with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies towards this goal. Anti-Personnel mines were among the topics discussed throughout the year, in bilateral meetings with governments as well as in dialogue with parties to armed conflict including non-State armed groups. The ICRC also promoted the universal adherence to the Convention at multilateral occasions, for example, in the ICRC's statement at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on "Mine Action and Sustaining

Peace: Stronger Partnerships for Better Delivery” in April this year. The Convention was also on the agenda of regional and supra-regional events organized by the ICRC in 2021, either virtually or in-person. The ICRC will continue to promote the Convention’s universalization in the coming year.

Mr. President,

This Meeting offers a critical opportunity to increase momentum to promote universal adherence. This must remain a priority and shall only be possible with the continued efforts and support of all States Parties and partner organizations.

Thank you.