

Meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the
Convention
25 May 2009
Statement by Norway

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Universalisation

Thank you.

The use of, trade with and production of anti-personell mines has virtually ended, at least by responsible states. Even states which are not party to the Mine Ban Convention, adhere to its norm and accept its humanitarian objectives. The norm that anti-personell mines are an indiscriminate weapon and therefore prohibited is near universal.

Challenges do remain. Some states non-party still have production capacity, and several still have mines in their military arsenals and as part of their military doctrines. However, very few states are known to have used anti-personell mines over the last years. Several armed non-state actors use anti-personnel mines, and we support efforts to convince these actors to comply with the norm of the Mine Ban Convention.

Norway appreciates efforts made to convince even more states to accede to the Mine Ban Convention, and we welcome every new State Party. 156 states have accepted to be legally bound by a prohibition of this weapon, but we feel that the numbers-game should now be abandoned. Many of those states who are not part of the 156, are states who are extremely reluctant to concede to be legally bound by a prohibition, even though in practice they adhere to the norm of the Convention.

It is our view that in the current situation, universalisation of the norm is even more important than the number of new States Parties, and has a better chance of achieving results on the ground.

Thank you.