



European Union
Statement by

**H.E. Ms Joëlle Jenny, Director for Security Policy and Conflict Prevention,
European External Action Service**

**THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
(Maputo, 23-27 June 2014)**

EU statement on Universalisation

Maputo, 23 June 2014

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Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Excellencies, dear friends,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (aligning clause).

1. The fact that we are holding discussions in this place today on universalisation of the Ottawa Convention has special significance.
2. Our host Mozambique was once one of the four countries in the world most affected by the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. In 1997, it was one of the first signatories of the Ottawa Convention, and it can now look forward to being declared "Mine-Free", following a committed and sustained demining effort.
3. This discussion also has special significance because this is the first Review Conference which sees the EU united in pursuing the objectives of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Following the accession of Poland in June 2013, all 28 EU Member States are now united under the Convention, bringing the total number of States Parties to 161.
4. The EU has over the years demonstrated its clear commitment to the promotion of the universal accession of all States to the Convention. We consider it essential to continue efforts to convince non-States Parties to join the Convention. Accession to a legally binding instrument is an important step towards this objective. This further reinforces our determination and commitment to achieve our zero victim target and, ultimately, a world free of anti-personnel mines.
5. This is the reason why a large part of our 2012 assistance programme in support of the Cartagena Action Plan has been dedicated to Universalisation.
6. A High-Level Task-Force was established in this framework in order to provide strong support to the Universalisation component of the programme. It includes HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium, HRH Prince Mired of Jordan, and Colombian singer and activist Juanes. We have made use of this component and of our Special Envoys to engage with important partners. It is in this framework that HRH Prince Mired, with energy and commitment, undertook a mission to China; that the ISU in partnership with the "US campaign to Ban Landmines" held an important universalisation workshop on the US and the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention in Washington in 2014; and finally that HRH Princess Astrid, with her usual unwavering dedication, held successful high level discussions with Oman which led to the excellent news that the Sultanate would soon join the Convention.

7. However, while continuing our overall efforts in this direction, we consider that we should also systematically examine possible opportunities for States that are not yet Parties to the Convention to adhere to at least some of its individual norms, and effectively to implement concrete measures to that end. This would in our view contribute, at least to some extent, to our ultimate goal of ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.
8. Inter alia, such measures could include political commitments not to transfer and/or produce anti-personnel mines. Moreover, some States not yet Parties to the Convention might be willing to take some transparency measures or to destroy some, or even all, of their anti-personnel mines. To this end, the EU has been approaching some of its partners, using the opportunities offered by political dialogues at high level, to pass the message that is about to be endorsed by the States Parties at Maputo.
9. Finally we would like to recall that here in Maputo in 1999, at the 1st Meeting of State Parties, those States Parties declared that “as a community dedicated to seeing an end to the use of anti-personnel mines, our assistance and cooperation will flow primarily to those who have foresworn the use of these weapons forever through adherence to and implementation of the convention”. This is still for the EU a path to be followed, and we reiterate that concrete opportunities for international cooperation with States not yet party to the Convention should primarily be targeted at those States that significantly support practical mine action, taking into account that each country will allocate its aid on the basis of its own priorities and principles, and fundamentally on the basis of the greatest need.

Thank you Mr President.