



European Union
Statement by

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Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

**Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
(Geneva, 30 November-4 December 2015)**

Universalisation

Geneva, 1 December 2015

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

**Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
EU Statement on Universalisation
1 December 2015**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on the assumption of your duties. It gives us a great pleasure to see Belgium, an EU Member State, chairing our proceedings.

The Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties is the first formal meeting after the review of the Convention in Maputo in June 2014. It will provide States Parties the opportunity for a first assessment of the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Maputo Action Plan and of the functioning of the new machinery. At the same time, States Parties are also invited to take important administrative and financial decisions to increase transparency, sustainability and ownership of the Convention.

I would also like to take the opportunity to warmly congratulate Mozambique which, after two decades of work, achieved to be the first heavily mine-contaminated country completely cleared of mines. It is an example of hope for other mine affected countries and the EU is proud to have contributed in these efforts.

Let me also take the opportunity to congratulate Finland, another EU Member State, which has fulfilled its article 4 commitments, and destroyed its stockpiled anti-personnel mines well ahead of its 2016 deadline.

The EU is deeply concerned about allegations of use of anti-personnel mines by States Parties and appeals to all States and non-State actors to refrain from their use.

On the specific topic of universalisation, the EU has over the years demonstrated its clear commitment to the promotion of the universal accession and implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine ban Convention. This further reinforces our determination and commitment to ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

This is the reason why a large part of our assistance programme in support of the Convention was dedicated to Universalisation.

It is in this context that the EU High Level Task Force, comprised by His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan and Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium as EU Envoys,

has engaged with great energy and commitment with important international partners. It is also in this context that HRH Princess Astrid held successful high level discussions with Oman which led to the excellent news of the Sultanate joining the Convention.

While continuing our overall efforts towards universalisation, we consider that we should in parallel and as a first step explore also opportunities to bring non States Parties closer to the Convention by adhering to its norms and implementing effectively concrete measures to that end. Those measures could include political commitments, such as to undertake not to transfer or produce anti-personnel mines or take transparency measures, among others.

To this end, the EU has approached several international partners, also in the context of bilateral high level political dialogues.

The EU will continue to advocate the universalisation of the Convention.

Thank you