

UNIVERSALIZATION – HRH PRINCE MIRED OF JORDAN

The final documents of the 2009 Cartagena Summit recorded that “it has become clear that there has been a dire need for States Parties, at the ministerial level or higher, to engage States not parties.”

I have often been reminded that this was included in the Cartagena final documents because I have suggested that it should.

After having served as President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties, I was convinced, in visiting various capitals around the world, that the leadership of the States not party to the Convention needed to be told directly that we desired that they join the anti-landmines movement.

I was grateful that Norway agreed, and supported me in my continued high level engagement of States not parties in 2010 and 2011.

More recently, I am pleased that the European Union has committed to high level engagement through its Council Decision in support of the Cartagena Action Plan.

Thanks to the European Union, I was able to visit China last year, to express at a high level how much we appreciate China’s engagement in the work of the Convention and how much we hope that China would one day take that next step and accede to the Convention.

I have also given due regard to the United States of America.

In 2010 I visited Washington to offer inputs to the USA’s landmine policy review.

Here we find ourselves five years later and the results of that review have still not been announced.

To encourage the USA to do the right thing – to conclude the review in such a way that US landmine policy would be consistent with the Ottawa Convention – I participated in a symposium in Washington in February of this year.

I wish to thank the European Union for sponsoring this symposium and Human Rights Watch and the US Campaign to Ban Landmines for supporting it.

At this symposium, I expressed what I'm sure you agree with:

I said that there is no good reason for the USA to remain outside of the Convention and many good reasons why it should join.

Moreover, anything short of adopting a policy that would see the US Administration commit to never, under any circumstances, use, produce, stockpile or transfer anti-personnel mines would leave the US on the side-lines and not in the lead where it normally belongs.

In addition, maintaining a policy that falls short of what is required to conclusively end the landmine era would seem to be inconsistent with the advanced, forward-looking America that we know and respect.

I remain committed to pursue the universalization of the Convention and am pleased that the Maputo Action Plan proposes that the States Parties commit to coordinate their actions to promote the Convention, including actions taken at a high level.

As we have seen from ISU research undertaken with support of the EU Council Decision, the vast majority of the States not party to the Convention likely still possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

As well, many of States not party perceive that they may derive utility from mined that have already been emplaced. In this sense, many States not parties are users of anti-personnel mines and this, we have agreed, must stop.

The Convention has established a norm and enjoys widespread acceptance, but it has not yet been solidified. We have achieve a lot when it comes to universalization, but our work is not yet done.