



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Third Review Conference**

**Statement on Universalisation
23 June 2014**

Thank you Madam Vice-President. The New Zealand delegation would like to join others in congratulating the President, through you, on assuming his important responsibilities today, and to offer him our full support. We have been very pleased to have been able to work closely with his team in the lead-up to this Review Conference, and congratulate him and Ambassador Comissário for their active leadership.

The adherence of 161 States to our Treaty amply demonstrates its success in building a global norm against anti-personnel landmines. We welcome in particular those five new States Parties that have joined this movement since our last Review Conference in 2009: Finland, Poland, Somalia, South Sudan and – from New Zealand's part of the world – Tuvalu. We also welcome Oman's recent commitment to join the Treaty and hope that will soon be translated into accession.

New Zealand would like to acknowledge particularly the efforts of His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan and Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium in this important endeavour, and to underline our continuing support for their work, including in our own region. Non-governmental organisations have also been particularly important in realising the essential task of making this Treaty a truly global instrument.

While the pace of universalisation has slowed in recent years, this should be viewed not as a result of any diminution of our collective efforts to realise this Treaty's goals, but as a reflection of the Convention's stage of maturity. Only 36 States, whom we continue to call upon to join the Convention as soon as possible, remain outside of it. This is a tremendous achievement.

Further universalisation will depend not only on decisions made in those 36 remaining States, but of the commitment and drive that we as a community can bring to implementing this Treaty and demonstrating its life-saving impact.

New Zealand therefore welcomes the vision and ambition the Mozambican team has translated into the draft outcome texts we now have before us, which we believe can only support the further universalisation of the Treaty in the years ahead.

Thank you Madam Vice-President.