

THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Statement of Slovenia on universalisation of the Convention
(Maputo, 23 June 2014)

Mr President, Excellencies, dear friends,

Allow me to say few words on the issue of universalisation of the Convention. Before I start, let me align our statement to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Mr President,

Universalisation is a challenge for all international law instruments. In fact, except the UN Charter, there are not many international legal instruments being universally accepted. This is not unusual, since not all international legal instruments are interesting for all states in the world. However, the case of our Convention is indeed specific: the ultimate goal of our Convention is complete elimination of anti-personnel mines. This goal cannot be achieved without universalisation of the Convention. For this reason, universalisation remains crucially important challenge of the States Parties of our Convention, which in our view, needs to be addressed more comprehensively.

Today, there are 161 States Parties of the Convention. We are happy to hear that this number might grow soon, due to the announcement that Sultanate of Oman should become 162nd State Party. Accession of Oman may encourage other states not parties to follow Oman.

We welcome the creation of a High-Level Task Force in order to provide strong support to the universalisation component of the programme. We commend activities done so far by the dignitaries such as HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium and HRH Prince Mired of Jordan and encourage the High-Level Task Force to continue these efforts.

Mr. President,

One of instruments for universalisation is a resolution devoted to our Convention, which is annually adopted by UN General Assembly in New York. The UN General Assembly, namely its First Committee, is a forum where UN Member States discuss issues related to international peace and security. In our view, we should better use this forum in the future to promote our Convention and make outreach to the states not parties to the Convention. Voting in favour of the UNGA resolution offers these states to demonstrate their political support to the Convention and its final goal, while not being in a position to join the Convention due to reasons related to their national security. Last year we had a case of Libya, a state not party to the Convention that decided to vote for the first time in

favour of the resolution. We should encourage these states to start their journey to the Convention and start voting in favour of the Convention.

At the last session of the UN General Assembly Slovenia tabled the resolution on behalf of all States parties in its capacity of outgoing President of the 12th Meeting of States Parties and was working to widen support to the resolution among the UN members. Slovenia stands ready to assist you and to continue its work at the next UNGA Session in the fall.

Thank you Mr President.