



**Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on
their Destruction**

Oslo, Norway

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Statement by Ireland on Universalisation

Delivered by

H.E. Keith McBean,

Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of Norway

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union; I will add the following remarks in our national capacity.

President,

We welcome the steady increase in the number of States Parties to the Convention since the Third Review Conference. 164 States Parties represents circa 80% of the world's States. This is a number we should all be proud of. At the same time as we celebrate this achievement, we must remain conscious of the challenges that remain in getting to universal adherence.

While the Convention has established a strong norm against the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, 33 States, including possessors and producers of anti-personnel landmines, remain outside the Convention. As long as States remain outside of the Convention and continue to produce new anti-personnel mines, to retain large stockpiles, or to reserve the right to use them, these mines will remain a persistent humanitarian problem.

Ireland would like to acknowledge the outreach and effective efforts of successive Presidents of the Convention to universalisation since 2014. We would also like to thank the Convention's Special Envoys Prince Mired of Jordan and Princess Astrid of Belgium for their valuable engagement and activities on universalisation which have contributed to strengthening our collective efforts.

President,

Ireland is, as ever, fully committed to promoting universalisation of the Convention. We must continue to place universalisation at the heart of our efforts until every State joins the ‘Ottawa Community’. Ireland has continued to support this aim through the fulfilment of the Maputo Action Plan, which encouraged continuing efforts to pursue universal adherence and acceptance of the Convention’s norms.

We stand ready to build on the progress to date and are fully committed to the implementing the Oslo Action Plan. The operationalisation of the Oslo Action Plan will strengthen adherence to the Convention’s norms and Ireland will continue to take every opportunity to encourage States not party to the convention to accede to it.

We have used and will continue to use our network of Embassies and close relations with a number of States, including in Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia to promote the Convention. We have also used multilateral opportunities, and military to military contact, to open and maintain dialogue on universalisation and we will continue to do so as part of our efforts to achieve universalisation of the Convention.

We look forward to hearing from fellow States Parties and to discussing how we might make further progress towards universalisation in the near future.

Thank you.