

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION: 4TH REVIEW CONFERENCE

Agenda item 7(a): Review of the operation and status of the Convention: Universalisation

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

Oslo, Wednesday 27 November 2019

The United Kingdom is pleased that the Ottawa Convention has made significant progress towards universalisation over the last two decades. With 164 States Parties, the Convention is already the conventional disarmament and arms control arrangement with the broadest membership. In line with its strong support for the norms of the Convention, the UK continues to do its utmost to promote the Convention's objectives, with a view to achieving full universalisation.

We welcome the continued participation of States as observers at the Conferences of States Parties, and this week at the Review Conference. It is encouraging that so many States who are not yet full members engage actively with our work and contribute to Mine Action.

Looking forward, States Parties should work collaboratively with States that have not yet joined the Convention to be able to understand better the underlying factors that prevent States from joining the Convention. If we can start to understand the obstacles in the road, we can help to put in place the right kind of assistance. The UK has continued to reach out to States that remain outside the convention. In particular, we have had a very constructive dialogue with Vietnam over the last few months about the progress they are making on mine clearance, and we welcome their presence at the Review Conference this week.

Finally, Mr President, allow me to take this opportunity once again to encourage all States not already party to accede to the Convention, and to reiterate the UK's readiness to offer dialogue and support where we can. As such we welcome the elements on universalisation that you have proposed in the draft Oslo Action Plan.

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