Overcoming challenges to accession to the Convention

“The Road to Cartagena”

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Universalization Contact Group
All States Parties have undertaken the **obligation** to promote universalization of the Convention through:

- the Convention itself;
- the Nairobi Declaration;
- the Nairobi Action Plan 2005 to 2009; and
- soon the Cartagena Declaration and Action Plan

**Status of Universalization**

156 states have ratified or acceded to the Convention

2 signed almost 12 years ago but have not yet ratified

37 other States remain outside the Convention

195*

* Total number of States as of October 2009
Universalization Tools

- Coordination
- Bi-Lateral and High Level Contacts
- Margins of Multi-Lateral Meetings
- Workshops
- Special Purpose visits
- Military to Military Dialogue

What’s the delay?

Why has the state not joined?
- Is it because of national security concerns?
- Is the state currently in conflict?
- Are there border issues, resource issues, political issues?
- Is it insufficient capacity to action accession or ratification?
Some concerns often expressed

• Is this really a humanitarian problem, just how many civilians have been injured or killed?
• Why take away a weapon that protects our soldiers?
• Responsible armies mark their minefields - why won’t that work?

Some concerns often expressed

• I need them because my neighbour has them.
• My national security depends on these mines.
• I need them to protect my border.
• I cannot afford to replace them.
Universalization Challenge I

- Political Considerations

Political Considerations

Some Examples
FS of Micronesia, Marshall Islands
Tonga, Tuvalu
Bahrain, Oman, and UAE
Lebanon
Morocco
Finland
Universalization Challenge II!

- National Security

Historical Perspective
Conclusion