



Statement made by Geneva Call Nairobi Summit - November 30, 2004

Mister President, Excellencies, Ambassadors, Dear Delegates,

The increasing number of States having signed the Mine Ban Treaty is very encouraging and we all know we have still to reinforce our efforts to convince more governments to join this Treaty.

But to get the non-State Parties on board will be not sufficient.

The slogan of the Nairobi Summit is “a mine-free world”. Whatever is our definition of universalization, whatever is our own point of view on Non-State Actors, if we want to achieve this “mine-free world”, we have to convince and engage all those who are using this coward weapon.

Currently in the world, there are much more internal conflicts than intra-States conflicts. Currently in the world there are more Non-State Actors using mines than government forces. This is why it's essential to engage them in a landmine ban.

We have for sure to condemn the use of AP mines, everywhere, by everybody, but it's also necessary to give to everybody the possibility to commit to ban anti-personnel mines, to the State Actors and to the Non-State actors. It's also essential to facilitate the work done by specialized organizations, like Geneva Call and country campaigns of the ICBL.

Geneva Call has been doing this work for the past four years. So far 26 groups have taken the engagement to ban AP mines by signing the Deed of Commitment. Three weeks ago, we organized in Geneva the first meeting of Signatories to Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment.

Non-State Actors for more than 22 war-torn countries attended this event, with governments, the European Commission, the African Union, UN agencies, the ICRC and specialized NGOs. The objective was, like for this summit, to review the successes and challenges that we, the Non-State Actors and the concerned Governments have faced in this engagement process and in its implementation. A declaration for Nairobi was adopted by the signatories of the Deed of Commitment

Among the main points of this declaration, we can note:

We, the Non-State Actors:

- Reaffirm our commitment to ban the use of anti-personnel mines and to actively cooperate in mine action and monitoring,
- Call on all NSAs throughout the world to ban the use of AP mines in their struggles,
- Are convinced that mine action can play an important role in confidence building and peace building processes among parties to conflict,
- Call on the international community and specialized NGOs to assist or increase assistance for demining, victim assistance and mine risk education programs in areas under the control or influence of armed non-state actors who are engaged in the fight against landmines,
- Call on States to support or facilitate the work done by Geneva Call, national campaigns of the ICBL and other specialised NGOs in universalising the mine ban.

This declaration is the clear demonstration that an inclusive approach with Non-State Actors can play an important role towards a mine-free world.

The case of neighbouring Somalia is telling on this point: 16 Somali factions have signed Geneva Call 2 years ago. Today they have formed the new government of Somalia, and in continuity with their commitment under Geneva Call, they have stated their willingness to accede the Ottawa Treaty.

Mister President, if it's the role specific role of NGOs to engage Non-State Actors, if it's evident that States can't do this work, it's also evident that this work can't be done without States and we would like to underline the need of support from governments in this work. There are

several ways: in facilitating the work, in allowing missions, in improving the wording in declarations, in funding or even in giving visas, like Switzerland did for our Non-State Actors Conference in Geneva.

And this complementary work will be again a good example of the strategic partnership between States and NGOs, that led to the Ottawa process.