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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 2003 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE “DECLARATION ON PROMOTING THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION”, ADOPTED ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2002 IN NEW YORK

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a declaration entitled: "Declaration on Promoting the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction" that was adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Human Security Network Partner and Observer States on 12th of September 2002 in New York.

The Human Security Network, which is currently chaired by Austria, is an international group of states and comprises Austria, Canada, Chile, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand and South Africa as an observer. It is the aim of the Network to take concrete actions directed towards making the world a place where all people can live in security and dignity, free from fear and want, and with equal opportunities to fully develop their human potential.

The problems caused by Anti-personnel-landmines lie very much at the heart of the Network's efforts to ensure the security and the rights of the individual. Indeed, the Network itself was founded in the wake of the successful establishment of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction that can be seen as the embodiment of the concept of Human Security.

I would be grateful if this declaration could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all members States of the Conference, as well as to all non-members States participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed):

Wolfgang Petritsch
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Austria

HUMAN SECURITY NETWORK

Declaration on Promoting the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

We, the Partners and Observers in the Human Security Network, Austria, Canada, Chile, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, The Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland and Thailand, remain strongly committed to further strengthening the humanitarian norm that has been established by the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction*. This Convention was born out of the determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties by anti-personnel mines, that kill or maim innocent and defenseless people, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons and have other severe consequences many years after emplacement. The Convention has set an international humanitarian norm that is working beyond its membership.

We stress our conviction that no conceivable military utility of anti-personnel mines could possibly outweigh and justify the devastating humanitarian costs of these weapons.

We emphasize therefore the desirability of attracting the adherence of all those states that are not yet formally bound by the Convention and are determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of universalization of the Convention.

In this context, we welcome the recent ratification of the Convention by Chile, a partner in the Human Security Network, and the ratifications of or accessions to the Convention by Algeria, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Nigeria, and Suriname.

In addition, we are also encouraged by the steps taken by other states to be formally bound by the Convention, including Greece, a partner in the Human Security Network, and Turkey, as well as Afghanistan.

Adopted by HSN-Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 12th of September 2002 in New York
