

## UK STATEMENT ON UNIVERSALISATION, Oslo

11-14 September 2012.

Mr. President,

I would like to use this opportunity to warmly welcome the work and leadership of our Japanese and Portuguese colleagues in this area and congratulate those 12 countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention since the Second Meeting of States Parties.

111 Signatories and State Parties is a great achievement for a young convention, but as we all acknowledge, much work remains to be done to encourage many of the world's major user and producer countries to accede to the Convention.

The UK continues to prioritise its universalisation work. The UK uses all appropriate bilateral and multilateral opportunities to raise universalisation with non-signatory States, including within the EU and Commonwealth. In addition to our bilateral and multilateral efforts over the last 12 months the UK hosted a successful universalisation workshop for Commonwealth countries. We are grateful to the ICRC, CMC, our Lebanese colleagues and the Commonwealth Secretariat for their generous input into the workshop and for the contributions of participants from across the Commonwealth.

The UK warmly welcomes the initiatives of Ghana and Croatia in hosting regional workshops earlier this year and we would encourage other states to consider how they might use their own special relationships and networks to promote the Convention.

Mr President

We believe that promotion of the Convention to those who have yet to accede is crucial to achieving the maximum humanitarian benefit of the Convention, as well as consolidating its international legal standard. In order to maximise the impact of our universalisation work we must be prepared to adapt our strategies to take account of the different circumstances of non-signatories and explore what we as States parties can do to help overcome any constraints. As called for by my Portuguese colleague the UK embraces the goal of universalisation and we very much look forward to working with State Parties and civil society this week, and in the future, to enhance the impact of our efforts in this crucial area.

Thank you.