

Vatican City – November 18, 2007

Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday called for a worldwide ban on landmines and wished success to delegates at the Mine Ban Convention currently being held in Jordan.

The pontiff, speaking after his Sunday noon Angelus blessing in St Peter's Square, expressed 'well-wishes and encouragement' to the delegates who represent the 155 countries that signed a 1997 convention on the destruction and prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines.

He said, "I express from the heart my well-wishes and my encouragement for a good result of the conference so that these ordnances that continue to make victims, including many children, are completely banned".