

ICBL INTERVENTION ON ARTICLE 3

Sara Sekkenes

Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) and
Chair, ICBL Mine Action Working Group (MAWG)

Intersessional Standing Committee

General Status and Operation of the Convention

1 February 2002

As regards mines retained for training and development, a Landmine Monitor factsheet on Article 3 can be found on the table outside this room (and is also available on the web at <http://www.icbl.org/sc>).

The ICBL Mine Action Working Group maintains the standpoint that no antipersonnel mines are needed for training purposes. Reiterating what my colleague mentioned earlier, countries that do declare their intention to retain mines for training and development purposes as permitted by Article 3 of the Convention, currently some 38 States Parties, are encouraged by the ICBL to report intended purpose and actual use of these mines accordingly in their Article 7 reports.

Article 3 states that the amount of mines retained *shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary*, which the Oslo treaty negotiators intended to mean in the hundreds or thousands, but not in the tens of thousands. This common understanding has been repeated by States Parties many times during past Standing Committee on GSOC meetings. The ICBL encourages States Parties to take this into consideration, should they decide to retain antipersonnel mines for training.

Thank you.