

Seventh Meeting

of the States Parties

18-22 September 2006

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





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1. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

> What is the AP Mine Ban Convention?

This is a short reference to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, also known as the Ottawa Convention.

> What is its purpose?

Its purpose is 'to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel (AP) mines' through four core aims:

- > Universal acceptance of a ban on AP mines
- > Destruction of stockpiled AP mines
- > Clearance of mined areas
- > Providing assistance to mine victims

> How many countries are have joined?

151 States have ratified or acceded to the Convention.
44 States have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention.

> What has been the impact of the Convention?

Use has decreased dramatically. 151 countries have agreed not to use AP mines by ratifying the Convention and other States have exhibited widespread acceptance of the need to stop use of these weapons.

Production has decreased significantly – 33 States of 50 which previously manufactured AP mines are now States Parties to the Convention.

Destruction of stockpiled mines has been significant - more than 38 million mines have been destroyed by States Parties. This work is ongoing – 12 States Parties are scheduled to destroy 10 million mines.

Clearing of mined areas continues. 51 States Parties have reported mined areas. 6 of these countries have completed their clearance obligations and several more will complete soon. Annual casualty rates have fallen in many countries.

Mine Victim Assistance has been addressed for the first time in a disarmament/ arms-control convention, drawing attention to the needs of survivors. Specialized organisations have raised millions of dollars to provide assistance to landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in mine-affected countries.

Further information is available from

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> Please visit www.7msp.org

2. WHAT IS THE AP MINE BAN CONVENTION?

- > The Convention was adopted in Oslo on 18 September 1997 and opened for signature in Ottawa 3-4 December 1997 at a ceremony that featured the participation of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.
- > For their determination in calling for the Convention, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its coordinator Jody Williams were awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.
- > The purpose of the Convention is “to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel (AP) mines.” It seeks to fulfill this purpose through the pursuit of four core aims:
 - > Universal acceptance of a ban on AP mines.
 - > The destruction of stockpiled AP mines.
 - > The clearance of mined areas.
 - > Providing assistance to mine victims.
- > The Convention entered into force on 1 March 1999. The Convention’s first five-year review was held in Nairobi 29 November – 3 December 2004, at which time the Nairobi Action Plan was adopted at a high political level.



Convention signing ceremony | Ottawa | 3 December 1997

3. WHAT IS THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES?

- The Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP) is a formal diplomatic meeting of the States that have accepted the 1997 *Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* – also known as *the Ottawa Convention or Anti-Personnel (AP) Mine Ban Convention*.
- The main purpose of the 7MSP is “to review the operation and status of the Convention.” In practical terms, this will see States developing solutions to key challenges faced in implementing the Convention, including challenges related to meeting expectations in clearing mined areas, destroying stockpiled mines and ensuring sustained support for landmine survivors.
- At the 7MSP, approximately 700 delegates representing over 100 States and dozens of international and non-governmental organizations will discuss the draft *Geneva Progress Report*, which reviews progress made between December 2005 and September 2006 in the pursuit of the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan and highlights priorities for the period 2006-2007.
- In addition, the 7MSP will feature debates on a proposed process to consider requests for extensions on the Convention’s obligation to clear mined areas in a 10 year period.



Handover ceremony of the Nairobi Declaration to Landmine Survivors Song Kosal and Tun Channareth
Nairobi | 3 December 2004

4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE 7MSP?

- > The 7MSP will be preceded by an opening ceremony at 09:45 on Monday 18 September in the Salle des Assemblées at the Palais des Nations. The opening ceremony and all other aspects of the 7MSP are open to the media.
- > The opening ceremony will feature addresses by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and the Honourable Teresa Gambaro, M.P., Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Special Representative on Mine Action.
- > At the beginning of the 7MSP, States Parties are expected to elect Australia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, *Caroline Millar*, as President of the 7MSP.
- > Following a brief general exchange of views, much of the 7MSP will feature thematic discussions on matters such as mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and efforts to achieve universal acceptance of the Convention. The basis for these discussions will be the *Geneva Progress Report*, a comprehensive assessment of progress made since December 2006 in the pursuit of the Convention's aims.
- > On the afternoon of Wednesday 20 September, States Parties will debate a proposed process for considering requests for extensions on the Convention's obligation to clear mines areas in a 10 year period.
- > Throughout the week of the 7MSP, approximately 25 related side events will take place at the Palais des Nations and at other locations in Geneva. Most of these events are open to the media.

7MSP Opening Ceremony – Highlights

- > The opening ceremony will be presided over by **Ambassador Jürg Streuli** of Switzerland, Secretary-General-Designate of the 7MSP.
- > The opening ceremony will commence with a performance by the traditional Afghan group *Ensemble Kaboul*, whose participation is being sponsored by the *Ateliers d'ethnomusicologie de Genève*. *Ensemble Kaboul* will feature Khaled Arman playing Afghan lutes and Faisal Salimi on percussion. For more information, email: patrizia.palmiero@deza.admin.ch.
- > High level addresses will be delivered by **Micheline Calmy-Rey**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and by **the Honourable Teresa Gambaro**, M.P., Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Special Representative on Mine Action.
- > A video produced by the *Landmine Survivors Network*, featuring landmine survivors at work in carrying out advocacy, will be screened for the first time. For more information, email: kirsten@landminesurvivors.org.
- > **Landmine survivor Song Kosal** will address delegates. At the age of six, Song Kosal's life was changed forever when she stepped on a landmine while working in a rice paddy along the Thai-Cambodian border. She has since campaigned vigorously for a world without anti-personnel mines, particularly raising issues of concern to children and youth. For more information, email: s.bailey@gichd.ch.
- > The opening ceremony will conclude with **Swiss double-amputee athlete Armin Köhli** commencing with a bicycle tour of Switzerland. Köhli is best known for being the first athlete with a disability to participate in the "Tour d'Afrique" – a bike race covering 11,500 km over 100 days from Cairo to Capetown in 2004. For more information, email: yhanggi@genevacall.org.

Ambassador Caroline Millar of Australia | President of the 7MSP

Ms. Millar was appointed Australia's Ambassador for Disarmament and Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations at Geneva in May 2006.

In the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra, Ms. Millar served as first Assistant Secretary, International Organisations and Legal Division from November 2002 until December 2005. From July 2003 she was concurrently Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues.

Ms. Millars's other positions in the Department in Canberra have included Assistant Secretary, Executive, Planning and Evaluation Branch (2001-02); Assistant Secretary, Trade Policy Issues and Industrials Branch (2000); Director, Non-Proliferation Policy Section (1992-95); and Executive Officer, Indochina Section (1987-88). Ms. Millar was also seconded to the Office of National Assessments as Americas Analyst (1991-92).

Overseas, Ms. Millar recently undertook a short-term assignment as Ambassador and Acting Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from February to April 2006. She previously served as Counsellor, Australian Mission to the United Nations in New York (1995-1998); first Secretary, Australian Embassy, Washington (1989-91); and Second Secretary, Australian Embassy, Hanoi (1985-87).

The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP | Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Special and Representative on Mine Action

In 2004 Ms. Gambaro was promoted to the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence where she had responsibility for a number of Defence programs and policies including housing, property, Reserves, cadets and base infrastructure.

In 2006 Ms. Gambaro was further appointed to Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In this portfolio she assists the Minister in managing Australia's overseas aid program through AusAID, Australia's Agency for International Development. Ms. Gambaro currently oversees the distribution of \$2.9 billion aid funds.

In addition to serving as Australia's Special Representative on Landmines, Ms. Gambaro assists the Minister in consular issues, travel advisories, passports and assists with foreign aid. She was recently appointed to chair of the Smart Traveller Advisory Group.

5. WHICH STATES HAVE JOINED THE CONVENTION?

Progress made

- > 151 States have ratified or have acceded to the Convention.
- > Every State in the Americas, except Cuba and the United States, has joined the Convention, as have most European States.
- > Every State in Sub-Saharan Africa, except Somalia, has joined the Convention.

Challenges that remain

- > 44 States have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention.
- > The rate of adherence remains low in Asia, the Middle East and amongst the members of the Commonwealth of Independent State.
- > Among these States are several which could have a significant impact on the goals of the Convention.
- > Combined, six of these States – China, India, the Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Russia and the United States – may hold more than 180 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines.



A

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria

B

Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi

C

Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Côte d' Ivoire
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic

D

Dem. Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic

E

Ecuador
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia

F

Fiji
France

G

Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana

H

Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary

I

Iceland
Ireland
Italy

J

Jamaica
Japan
Jordan

K

Kenya
Kiribati

L

Latvia
Lesotho
Liberia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg

M

Macedonia, the FYR of
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Moldova, Republic of
Monaco
Mozambique

N

Namibia
Nauru
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Niue
Norway

P

Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal

Q

Qatar

R

Romania
Rwanda

S

Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland

T

Tajikistan
Tanzania, United Republic of
Thailand
Timor Leste
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan

U

Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom
Uruguay

V

Vanuatu
Venezuela

Y

Yemen

Z

Zambia
Zimbabwe

6. BANNING USE, PRODUCTION, TRANSFERS

What the Convention says

- > Each State Party undertakes **never under any circumstances**:
 - > To **use** anti-personnel mines;
 - > To **develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer** to anyone, directly or indirectly, anti-personnel mines;
 - > To **assist, encourage or induce**, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention.
- > “The Articles of this Convention **shall not be subject to reservations.**”

Progress made

- > The use of anti-personnel mines has decreased dramatically. The Convention’s prohibition on the **use** of AP mines binds its 151 members and this norm has enjoyed widespread acceptance by other States.
- > By having joined the Convention, 151 of the world’s States have accepted a legally-binding prohibition on **transfers** of AP mines. Even for most other States this has become the accepted norm.
- > The **production** of AP mines has decreased significantly: of the 50 States that at one time produced AP mines, 33 are now parties to the Convention.

Challenges that remain

- > According to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, 12 States not parties to the Convention have used AP mines since the Convention entered into force.
- > 13 States not parties continue to produce AP mines or have not produced mines for some time but retain the capacity to produce.
- > Universal acceptance of the Convention’s norms is impeded by armed non-State actors that continue to use, stockpile, and produce anti-personnel mines.

7. DESTROYING STOCKPILED MINES

What the Convention says

- > Each State Party “undertakes to **destroy or ensure the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines** it owns or possesses, or that are under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but **not later than four years** after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.”
- > States Parties **may retain** “a number of anti-personnel mines **for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques.**” This number “shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary” for these purposes.

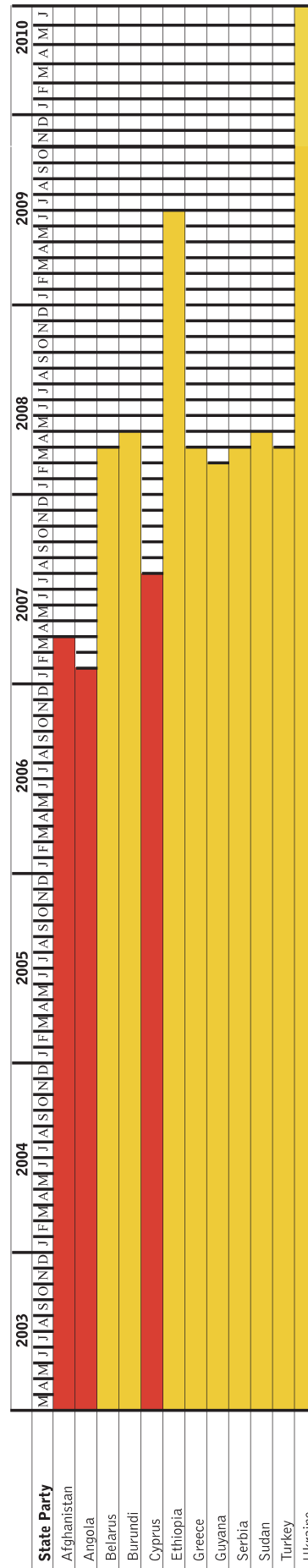
Progress made

- > All States Parties whose 4-year deadlines for destruction have occurred have now indicated completion of their stockpile destruction programmes.
- > 139 States Parties now no longer hold stockpiled anti-personnel mines.
- > Together the States Parties have destroyed more than 38 million mines.

Challenges that remain

- > 12 States Parties are still in the process of destroying their stockpiled anti-personnel mines.
- > Combined, these 12 States Parties must destroy approximately 10 million mines.
- > Destroying a particular type of mine – the Soviet-era “PFM-1” mine – is extremely hazardous and poses serious technical difficulties.

Deadlines for the clearing anti-personnel mines



█ deadline for stockpile destruction before the next Meeting of the States Parties

█ deadline for destruction after the next Meeting of the States Parties

8. CLEARING MINED AREAS

What the Convention says

- > Each State Party must make “every effort to **identify all areas** under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced.”
- > Each State Party must “as soon as possible” **ensure that these mined areas “are perimeter marked, monitored and protected** by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained there in have been destroyed.”
- > Each State Party must “**destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas** (...) as soon as possible but not later than 10 years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.”
- > If a State Party believes it is unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas within 10 years, it may **request an extension**.

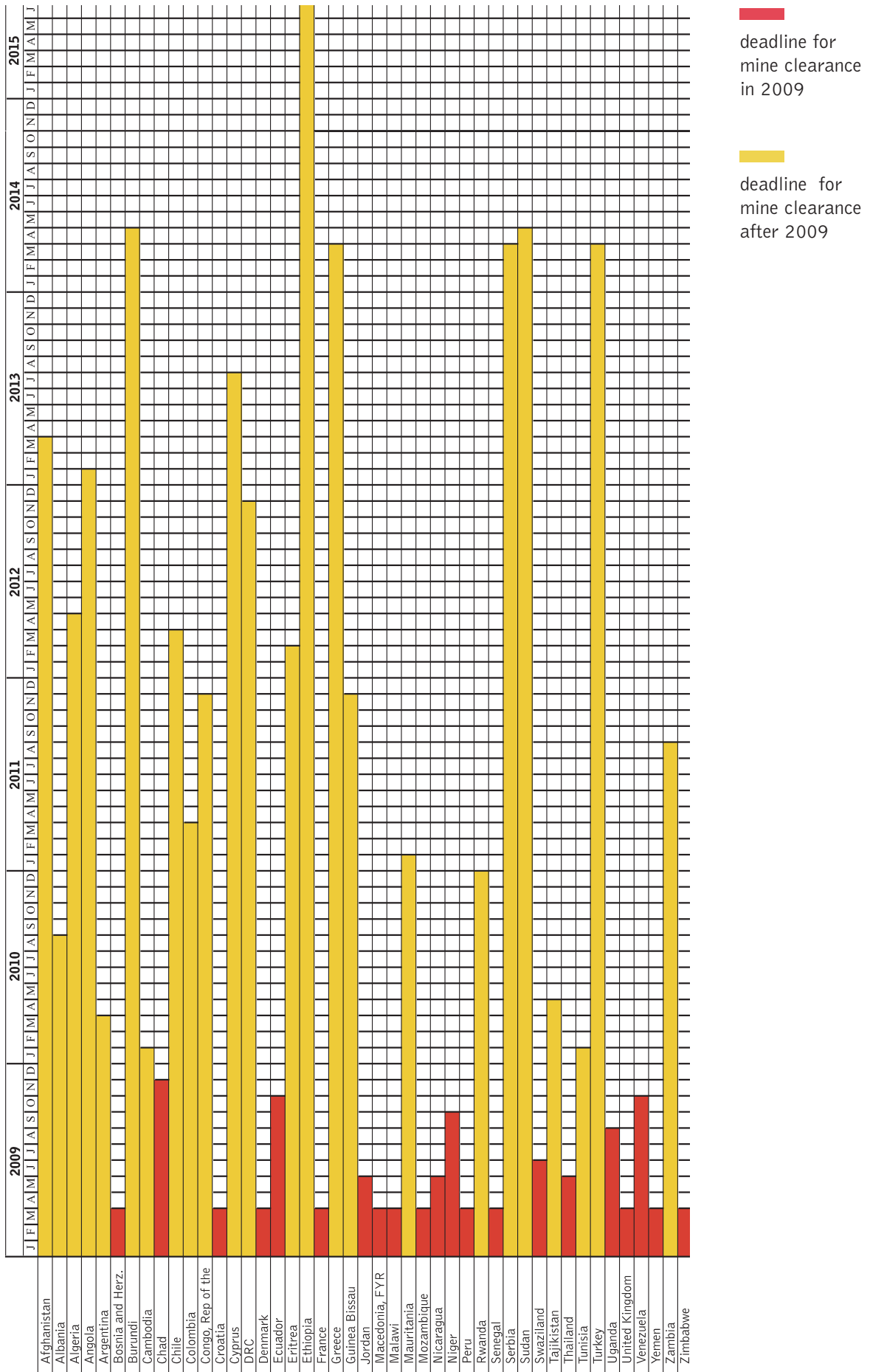
Progress made

- > 51 States Parties have reported mined areas under their jurisdiction or control.
- > 6 of these 51 States Parties – Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Guatemala, Honduras and Suriname - have indicated that they have fulfilled their clearance obligations.
- > Several more – including Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Nicaragua – are in a position to complete clearance soon.
- > Clearance activities and risk reduction measures have led to a reduction in annual casualty rates in many countries.

Challenges that remain

- > The 10 year deadline for 21 States Parties to complete clearance will occur by the end of 2009.
- > Meeting deadlines will require accelerated efforts to demine and to reduce the size of suspected mined areas through “technical survey” or “area reduction.”

Deadlines for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines



9. ASSISTING THE VICTIMS

What the Convention says

- > The Convention's preamble records the wish of the States Parties "to do their utmost in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration of mine victims."
- > This wish is translated into the obligation of "each State Party in a position to do so" to "provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims."

Progress made

- > For the first time a disarmament / arms-control convention contains measures to assist the victims of the weapons in question.
- > The Convention has drawn attention to the plight of landmine survivors – and hence the challenges of all persons with disabilities – in some of the world's poorest countries.
- > Specialized organizations have raised millions – including the ICRC alone which has generated over US\$ 100 million – to assist landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in mine-affected countries.
- > States Parties have begun to establish concrete victim assistance objectives.

Challenges that remain

- > 24 States Parties have indicated that they have significant numbers – hundreds or thousands – of landmine survivors for which they must provide care.
- > Many of these 24 countries are some of the poorest on earth and thus need a great deal of assistance in meeting the needs of mine victims.
- > Some mine-affected States Parties have accessed World Bank loans and post-conflict grants. More, though, need to be made aware of such mine action resources.

24 States Parties with significant numbers of landmine survivors

A	D	P
Afghanistan	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Peru
Albania	E	S
Angola	El Salvador	Senegal
B	Ethiopia	Serbia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Eritrea	Sudan
Burundi	G	T
C	Guinea-Bissau	Tajikistan
Cambodia	M	Thailand
Chad	Mozambique	U
Colombia	N	Uganda
Croatia	Nicaragua	Y
		Yemen

10. OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

What the Convention says

- > **Cooperation** Each States Party has the right to seek and receive assistance. Each State Party in a position to do so is obliged to provide assistance.
- > **Transparency** Each State Party must provide an initial transparency report within 180 days of the Convention entering into force for it, and hence update this report annually.
- > **Compliance** The primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Convention rests with each individual State Party through the legal and other measures it is obliged to take to prevent and suppress prohibited acts.

Progress made

- > **Cooperation** It is possible to account for almost US\$ 3.0 billion having been generated since 1997 for activities consistent with the Convention's aims.
- > **Transparency** All but 6 of the States Parties with a requirement to submit an initial transparency report have done so.
- > **Compliance** There are now 49 States Parties that have adopted legislation to prevent and suppress prohibited acts. In addition, 25 States Parties have indicated that they consider existing laws to be sufficient.

Challenges that remain

- > **Cooperation** A renewed donor commitment is required and it is equally important that mine-affected States Parties themselves take ownership over implementation by making national resource commitments.
- > **Transparency** The rate of compliance with the obligation to provide annual updates to transparency reports stands at 64%.
- > **Compliance** There are 77 States Parties that have not yet indicated that they have legislation sufficient to prevent and suppress prohibited acts.

Implementation Support

- > When the Convention was established, a conscious decision was taken not to establish a traditional secretariat for the Convention.
- > In lieu of a traditional secretariat, the States Parties took a formal decision in 2001 to mandate the establishment of the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit* at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.
- > *The Implementation Support Unit* is a cost-effective and innovative means to provide the necessary support to States Parties that are elected to positions of responsibility and to service the needs of all other States Parties.
- > *The Implementation Support Unit* is the authoritative information source on matters concerning the Convention and its implementation. All interested actors, including journalists, diplomats and academics, are welcome to contact the Unit.
- > *The Implementation Support Unit* is funded on a voluntary basis by States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.



Convention signing ceremony | Ottawa | 3 December 1997



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