

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



Overview of the Convention's core aims, its status and its relevance for the Caribbean Community

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[www.apminebanconvention.org](http://www.apminebanconvention.org)



## AP Mine Ban Convention

Preventing future suffering



**Purpose:**  
"To put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines."

Addressing existing suffering



## Prohibitions

- In accepting the Convention, 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.”



## Acceptance of the Convention

151 States have ratified or acceded to the Convention (as of 21 June 2006)

Afghanistan	Chile	Guinea-Bissau	Monaco	Slovenia
Albania	Colombia	Guyana	Mozambique	Solomon Islands
Algeria	Comoros	Haiti	Namibia	South Africa
Andorra	Congo	Holy See	Nauru	Spain
Angola	Cook Islands	Honduras	Netherlands	Sudan
Antigua and Barbuda	Costa Rica	Hungary	New Zealand	Suriname
Argentina	Côte d' Ivoire	Iceland	Nicaragua	Swaziland
Australia	Croatia	Ireland	Niger	Sweden
Austria	Cyprus	Italy	Nigeria	Switzerland
Bahamas	Czech Republic	Jamaica	Niue	Tajikistan
Bangladesh	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Japan	Norway	Tanzania, United Republic of
Barbados	Denmark	Jordan	Panama	Thailand
Belarus	Djibouti	Kenya	Papua New Guinea	Timor Leste
Belgium	Dominica	Kiribati	Paraguay	Togo
Belize	Dominican Republic	Latvia	Peru	Trinidad and Tobago
Benin	Ecuador	Lesotho	Philippines	Tunisia
Bhutan	El Salvador	Liberia	Portugal	Turkey
Bolivia	Equatorial Guinea	Liechtenstein	Qatar	Turkmenistan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Eritrea	Lithuania	Romania	Uganda
Botswana	Estonia	Luxembourg	Rwanda	Ukraine
Brazil	Ethiopia	Macedonia, the FYR of	Saint Kitts and Nevis	United Kingdom
Brunei Darussalam	Fiji	Madagascar	Saint Lucia	Uruguay
Bulgaria	France	Malawi	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	Vanuatu
Burkina Faso	Gabon	Malaysia	Samoa	Venezuela
Burundi	Gambia	Maldives	San Marino	Yemen
Cambodia	Germany	Mali	Sao Tome and Principe	Zambia
Cameroon	Ghana	Malta	Senegal	Zimbabwe
Canada	Greece	Mauritania	Serbia	
Cape Verde	Grenada	Mauritius	Seychelles	
Central African Republic	Guatemala	Mexico	Sierra Leone	
Chad	Guinea	Moldova, Republic of	Slovakia	



## Acceptance of the Convention

### 43 States have not ratified or acceded to the Convention (as of 21 June 2006)

Armenia	Micronesia, Fed. States of
Azerbaijan	Mongolia
Bahrain	Morocco
China	Myanmar (Burma)
Cuba	Nepal
Egypt	Oman
Finland	Pakistan
Georgia	Palau
India	Poland
Indonesia	Russian Federation
Iran	Saudi Arabia
Iraq	Singapore
Israel	Somalia
Kazakhstan	Sri Lanka
Korea, DPR of	Syrian Arab Republic
Korea, Republic of	Tonga
Kuwait	Tuvalu
Kyrgyzstan	United Arab Emirates
Laos	United States of America
Lebanon	Uzbekistan
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Vietnam
Marshall Islands	



## Stockpile Destruction

- 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.









## Assisting the Victims

### 24 States Parties with significant numbers of landmine survivors:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Angola
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Chad
- Colombia
- Croatia
- DRC
- El Salvador
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Guinea-Bissau
- Mozambique
- Nicaragua
- Peru
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Sudan
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Uganda
- Yemen



## Assistance and Cooperation

- “Each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance, where feasible, from other States Parties to the extent possible.”
- “Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for...”
  - mine victims
  - mine awareness (i.e., mine risk education) programs
  - mine clearance and related activities
  - the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines.
- “Each State Party giving and receiving assistance under the provisions of this Article shall cooperate with a view to ensuring the full and prompt implementation of agreed assistance programs.”





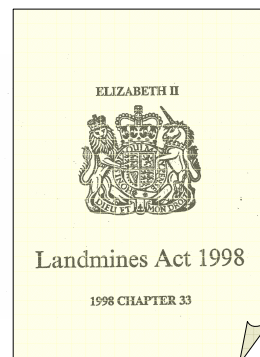
## Transparency in implementation

- Each State Party must provide an initial transparency report within 180 days of the Convention entering into force for it.
- Each State Party must provide “not later than 30 April of each year” updated information covering the last calendar year.



## Ensuring compliance

- The primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Convention rests with each individual State Party.
- Each State Party must take appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress prohibited activities.
- A variety of compliance clarification mechanisms are available to the States Parties, ultimately including – if necessary – fact-finding missions.







## Ottawa Convention: Relevance for the Caribbean

- **Universalization:** Interest in the Convention by others could be diminished if no support / attention is given to those that have accepted it.
- **Ensuring a mine-free future:** Maintaining a high level of awareness is needed to ensure ongoing compliance with core obligations.
- **Legislation:** All States Parties must take legislative and other measures to prevent and suppress prohibited acts.
- **Initial transparency:** Two CARICOM States Parties have not yet provided an initial transparency report. One may have **stockpiled mines** which it would need to be destroyed
- **Ongoing transparency:** Few CARICOM States Parties have provided an updated transparency report. One is in a position to report completion of **demining obligations**.
- **Contributions to the work of the Convention:** Despite size, many CARICOM States Parties possess the expertise to contribute to broader Convention issues.
- **Unexploded ordnance:** Some small States may face challenges in addressing problems of UXO and could benefit from lessons learned in the context of the Convention.

CARICOM member	Article 9: Has not yet indicated that it has legislation sufficient to give effect to the Convention	Article 7.1: Has not yet provided an initial transparency report	Article 7.2: Has not provided an annual updated transparency report in 2006	Article 4: May have stockpiled mines requiring destruction	Article 5: Has reported anti-personnel mines in mined areas	Participation: Has no Permanent Mission in Geneva
Antigua and Barbuda	X		X			X
Bahamas	X		X			X
Barbados	X		X			
Belize						
Dominica	X		X			X
Grenada	X		X			X
Guyana	X	X	N/A	X		X
Haiti	X	X	N/A			
Jamaica	X		X			
Saints Kitts and Nevis	X		X			X
Saint Lucia	X		X			X
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			X			X
Suriname	X		X		X	X
Trinidad and Tobago			X			





## Ottawa Convention: Objectives for the Caribbean

1. **Universalization:** An appreciation that the universalization is a two-sided coin – interest shown in convincing a State to join should be maintained once it has ratified / acceded.
2. **Ensuring a mine-free future:** Enhanced awareness of the Convention, its obligations and the importance of complying with them.
3. **Legislation:** Advances made in establishing national implementing legislation and in taking other measures as relevant.
4. **Initial transparency:** 100% compliance with Guyana submitting its report as soon as possible and with Haiti doing so by 28 January 2007.
5. **Ongoing transparency:** 100% compliance.
6. **Stockpile destruction:** Identification of assistance possibly needed by Guyana in destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines.
7. **Mine clearance:** Suriname's report on completion becomes a model for others.
8. **Participation in the Convention:** Identification of ways for participation by the region's States Parties in the broader work of the Convention.



## Ottawa Convention: Relevance for the Caribbean

*Small states are thankful that the Cold War has ended...and that development can now proceed apace with fewer roadblocks. The promise of the post-colonial period was an order based on the rule of law, fair trade and the sovereign equality of states; this was a promise deferred. In the emerging new world order, commencing after 1989, small states must now be engaged in the application of new methods for achieving development. Security is an important element in the mix of circumstances which will foster that development. This Convention for a global ban on (anti-personnel) land mines enhances security, ensures greater cooperation with the community of nations, and serves as a necessary precursor to development.*

*The small countries of the Caribbean, possessing not a single land mine in their arsenals, have agreed to forego forever the acquisition and deployment of these very harmful instruments of war.*

Statement by Antigua and Barbuda, 3 December 1997, Ottawa





## Ottawa Convention: Relevance for the Caribbean

*The Bahamas produces no anti-personnel mines, has never used or stockpiled them, nor engaged in any way in their transfer. However, we are morally obligated to play a meaningful role in the global effort to rid the world of them.*

*The Bahamas has carefully studied the Convention, the indispensable foundation on which the challenge to anti-personnel mines will be built. We commend it as an urgently needed moral standard (....)*

Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas, 3 December 1997, Ottawa



## Ottawa Convention: Relevance for the Caribbean

*Haïti n'a jamais été un champ de mines terrestres. Les démons qui la torturent sont d'un autre ordre. Mais elle ne saurait perdre cette occasion pour manifester aux victimes de ces engins barbares que l'atrocité de leur sort ne lui est pas étrangère.*

Statement by Haiti, 3 December 1997, Ottawa





## Ottawa Convention: Relevance for the Caribbean

*Jamaica does not itself produce, stockpile, transfer or use landmines, however, we believe the issue to be a critical one.*

*We are hopeful that the very clear and definitive demands of this treaty will give impetus to concerned states, indeed to all states, to find new ways of safeguarding their national security.*

Statement by the Minister of Legal Affairs and Attorney General of Jamaica,  
3 December 1997, Ottawa



## Ottawa Convention: Relevance for the Caribbean

*Every effort must be made to ensure that (the manufacture and use of anti-personnel mines) is ended once and for all. Our commitment must therefore continue beyond this Conference and the actual signing of this Convention. (...) After signature our countries are faced with the real challenge of implementation of the measures outlined in the Convention.*

*Trinidad and Tobago does not now possess, nor has any intention of possessing or utilising in the future, anti-personnel mines. We are keenly aware, however, of the disastrous effects of their deployment (...) Accordingly, in recognition of the urgent need for the elimination of anti-personnel mines and in solidarity with those countries seeking to rid their societies of this scourge, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is totally committed to the global eradication of anti-personnel mines and offers its full support to that end.*

Statement by Trinidad and Tobago, 3 December 1997, Ottawa

