

NEWS RELEASE



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

PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE OF THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE

2 December 2003

Process towards a mine-free world begins with a bang! Nobel Peace Prize laureate joins launch in Cyprus

Nicosia—1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Jody Williams added her voice today to a year-long effort to promote further steps to rid the world of anti-personnel mines. Williams joined **Acting-President of the Republic of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias** and Austrian Ambassador **Wolfgang Petritsch** at the launch near Nicosia of *the 2004 Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World* – the name that has been given to the 29 November to 3 December 2004 First Review Conference of the Convention prohibiting anti-personnel mines.

“We are making progress on the ground,” said Jody Williams, pointing to the global reduction in the use and trade of landmines and the advances made in demining and assisting victims. “Despite these accomplishments, landmines are still an ugly reality in too many countries where they claim thousands of new victims every year.”

Wolfgang Petritsch – the diplomat charged with leading preparations for *the Nairobi Summit* echoed Williams’ comments: “I am pleased with this progress and the unprecedented manner in which the international community has rallied to end the devastation of anti-personnel mines. However, I am not satisfied that enough has been done to end the suffering caused by this weapon.”

“I am launching the process leading to *the Nairobi Summit* because the ongoing plight of landmine survivors must continue to be front and centre in the global public conscience,” said Petritsch. “In addition, the elimination of anti-personnel mines must remain on the agenda of world leaders.”

Petritsch added that he had three expectations for *the Nairobi Summit*: “I expect States to renew commitments to continue to eliminate anti-personnel mines and implement the Convention. I expect States which are affected by mines to act with urgency to clear mines and assist victims. And, I expect world leaders to gather in Nairobi to establish a concrete action plan to fulfill the Convention’s aims between 2004 and 2009.”

The destruction by the Republic of Cyprus of its first batch of stockpiled anti-personnel mines served as a dramatic backdrop for *the Nairobi Summit* launch. The Republic of Cyprus has committed to destroying its entire stockpile by mid-2007 and to clearing mined areas under its jurisdiction and control by mid-2013.

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