



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NAIROBI SUMMIT PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE JOINS CALL TO ASSIST LANDMINE SURVIVORS: PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BUT MUCH MORE MUST BE DONE**

Nairobi – The President-Designate of the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World has embraced the call made by non-governmental organizations for greater support for landmine survivors.

“While a great deal has been accomplished since the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines was established, the plight of landmine survivors around the world remains a major humanitarian challenge,” said Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria, the diplomat charged with presiding over the 29 November – 3 December Nairobi Summit.

Ambassador Petritsch’s comments came in response to an appeal made earlier today by 1997 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, who demanded that the international community expand political and financial commitments to landmine survivors.

In making his comments, Ambassador Petritsch commended the efforts of leading organizations in making a difference for landmine survivors in dozens of countries around the globe.

“Since the Ottawa Convention entered into force, the International Committee of the Red Cross alone has generated more than US\$ 100 million from the international donor community to assist landmine survivors and other war wounded,” said Ambassador Petritsch. “Partnerships between donor states and other key organizations like Handicap International and the Landmine Survivors Network have resulted in similar amounts being spent in recent years to assist in the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors.”

“However, I am convinced that much more must be done,” added Ambassador Petritsch. “There are 23 members of the Ottawa Convention that have reported hundreds or thousands of landmine survivors. We need to reinforce their efforts. Therefore I have proposed that the Ottawa Convention’s members adopt 11 concrete actions at the Nairobi Summit to fulfill our promise to survivors.”

The draft *Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009*, which Ambassador Petritsch has prepared following extensive discussions with the Ottawa Convention’s member states and with civil society, includes the following proposals:

- That the 23 Ottawa Convention members with the greatest numbers of landmine survivors enhance health-care services needed to respond to the survivors’ medical needs.
- That these states increase physical rehabilitation capacity, develop means to meet the psychological support needs of survivors, and actively assist in survivors’ economic reintegration.
- That those Ottawa Convention members in a position to provide assistance promptly respond to the priorities for support articulated by those states in need.

- That all Ottawa Convention members ensure the effective integration of landmine survivors as full partners in the work to implement the Convention at the national and international levels.

The draft *Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009* will be debated at next week's Nairobi Summit – the first five-year review of the Ottawa Convention. Dozens of political leaders from all continents will speak at the Summit's high level session on 2-3 December.

On the eve of the Nairobi Summit, Ambassador Petritsch will participate in a special *Survivor Summit* at which he will engage landmine survivors in a face-to-face dialogue. "Survivors have contributed to the development of the Nairobi Summit's proposed outcomes," said Ambassador Petritsch. "In addition, I am committed to ensuring that the voices of survivors continue to be heard in during the Nairobi Summit itself and beyond."

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Note:

- The draft *Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009* and other Summit documents can be found at: [www.reviewconference.org/draft\\_documents](http://www.reviewconference.org/draft_documents)
- A list of key media opportunities at the Summit is available at: [www.nairobisummit.org/press](http://www.nairobisummit.org/press)
- A B-roll of rights-cleared, broadcast quality video footage of anti-personnel mines, mine survivors, mine clearance, stockpile destruction and Ottawa Convention-related diplomatic images is available to interested media representatives.