

A MINE-FREE WORLD: MISSION POSSIBLE

2009 - The road to the Mine Ban Treaty's Second Review Conference

Ten years after its entry into force on 1 March 1999, the Mine Ban Treaty has clearly **made a difference** in the lives of individuals and communities living in mine-affected areas. To measure progress made so far, assess the challenges ahead, and collectively recommit to continue working towards a mine-free world, States Parties to the treaty, some states not party to the treaty, United Nations agencies, and the civil society groups, including landmine survivors and mine action operators, will gather in Cartagena, Colombia from 30 November to 4 December 2009 for the treaty's Second Review Conference. In the lead up to this meeting, the mine action community, and in particular states should **step up their efforts** to meet the goal set out in the preamble of the treaty: *"to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by antipersonnel mines."*

The ICBL believes that the Second Review Conference should reaffirm a "mine-free world" as our ultimate goal, meaning one in which the Mine Ban Treaty is universally adhered to and implemented, with all stockpiles destroyed, all known mined areas cleared, and the physical rehabilitation and socio-economic inclusion of landmine survivors ensured. The road ahead may still be long, but with the lessons learned over the past 10 years we strongly believe achieving this goal is **"Mission Possible."**

Over the past 10 years, the number of countries joining the treaty has continued to grow—from 71 as of 1 March 1999 to 156 as of 1 March 2009. Under the treaty's guidance States Parties have cleared and returned to productive use large tracts of land; educated mine-affected communities about the risk of antipersonnel mines and other unexploded ordnance; provided support to and protected the rights of landmine survivors; and destroyed millions of stockpiled antipersonnel mines, ensuring they can never be planted in the earth again. Today, use of antipersonnel mines is the exception rather than the rule, and the trade in these weapons has virtually stopped. Thanks to the advance of mine clearance and risk education programs, the number of new landmine casualties has steadily decreased.

However, many challenges still remain on the road to a mine-free world, especially in the

areas of mine clearance, stockpile destruction, and ensuring real and lasting change in the lives of landmine survivors, their families and communities. To overcome these challenges and fulfill our collective mission, states, civil society and all other stakeholders in the mine ban community must reaffirm their firm commitment and continue working together to get rid of landmines and assist those already affected.

Background

In the early 1990s, antipersonnel mines, were affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in dozens of countries. In a strong and determined reaction, international civil society—led by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)—worked together with governments outside traditional diplomatic channels to negotiate a treaty to ban these weapons.

This unprecedented diplomatic process led to the Mine Ban Treaty being opened for signature in Ottawa, Canada, in December 1997. The treaty entered into force less than two years later, more quickly than any treaty of its kind in history. In 1997, the ICBL and its then coordinator Jody Williams were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their key role in promoting and achieving the treaty.



International
CAMPAIGN TO BAN
LANDMINES

9, Rue de Cornavin
CH-1201 Geneva,
Switzerland
Tel: +41.22.920.03.25
Fax: +41.22.920.01.15
icbl@icbl.org

A Mine-Free World: Mission Possible

A mine-free world means...	How far we have come	What remains to be done
<p>No more use or production of antipersonnel mines by anyone, ever</p>	<p>156 countries (80% of the world's states) are now party to the treaty, and many more abide <i>de facto</i> by its provisions.</p> <p><i>Landmine Monitor Report 2008</i> recorded use by government forces only in Myanmar and Russia. Use by non-state armed groups has been reported in at least nine countries.</p> <p>Global trade in antipersonnel mines has practically stopped and production has decreased dramatically.</p>	<p>All 39 countries remaining outside the treaty must join it, renouncing the use of landmines forever.</p> <p>Those non-state armed groups that are still producing or using antipersonnel mines must stop doing so.</p>
<p>No more landmines are stockpiled or retained for training and development</p>	<p>States Parties have destroyed over 42 million mines.</p> <p>145 States Parties have reported that they do not stockpile antipersonnel mines.</p> <p>Over 80 States Parties are not retaining any mines for training or development.</p>	<p>Three States Parties (Belarus, Greece and Turkey) missed their 1 March 2008 deadline and must finish destroying their stocks with no further delay.</p> <p>Three States Parties (Ethiopia, Ukraine, and Kuwait) have upcoming stockpile destruction deadlines.</p> <p>71 States Parties are retaining a total of 216,000 mines for research and training.</p>
<p>All known mined areas are cleared</p>	<p>10 States Parties have reported completing their mine clearance duties under the treaty.</p> <p>More than 1,000 square kilometers of mined areas have been cleared since 1997, and several thousand square kilometers of land previously suspected of mine contamination has been deemed safe and released.</p>	<p>Over 70 states (including 44 States Parties) still need to clear all mined areas.</p> <p>Many thousands of square kilometers of land remain to be cleared.</p> <p>States Parties have the possibility to ask for an extension of their 10-year clearance deadline, but should only do so if absolutely necessary and for only the minimum number of years strictly needed.</p>
<p>No new landmine victims</p>	<p>The number of new victims globally has been gradually decreasing.</p> <p>Risk education is considered adequate to the needs of communities in mine-affected areas in 27 states and areas.</p>	<p>The number of new landmine casualties – 5,426 reported in 2007 – must be reduced to zero.</p> <p>Effective risk education is still needed in 24 States Parties.</p>
<p>Landmine survivors are fully integrated into their societies</p>	<p>The Mine Ban Treaty established the norm that States Parties have a duty to provide assistance to and protect the rights of landmine survivors, their families and affected communities.</p> <p>Special efforts have been made in 26 of the most affected states to develop victim assistance goals and plans.</p> <p>In some affected countries victim assistance has been integrated into national development programs and policies, helping to promote the long-term viability of the support and the lack of discrimination among all persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Convention on Cluster Munitions and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provide additional concepts to assist in the practical implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty's victim assistance obligations.</p>	<p>Survivors must be included in the planning, implementation and decision-making phases of victim assistance programs.</p> <p>Immediate and long-term medical care must be provided to all survivors.</p> <p>Socio-economic inclusion must be facilitated for landmine survivors, their families and affected communities.</p> <p>Psychological support must be provided to landmine survivors and their families.</p> <p>Landmine survivors must have the same rights as all other persons and be aware of their rights.</p> <p>Survivors must be able to access needed medical, economic and social services.</p> <p>National capacity and ownership must be improved.</p> <p>States must have data collection systems capable of providing information on numbers, locations, and needs of survivors.</p>