
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THE DESTRUCTION (MINE BAN TREATY)

Opened for Signature: 3 December, 1997.

Entered into Force: 1 March, 1999.

Number of Parties: 156

Number of Signatories: 133

Signatories that have not ratified: 2

Depositary: UN Secretary-General

Treaty Text

Background: A global mine ban has always been an issue of contention due to the strong opposition by many countries to such a ban. The 1995-96 Review Conference of the 1980 [Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons \(CCW\)](#) failed to agree to substantial restrictions on anti-personnel landmines (APL) within its framework. However, by May 1996, some 40 countries had declared various degrees of unilateral bans or moratoria on the production of mines, as well as their use and transfer.

From 3-5 October, 1996, Canada hosted a conference in Ottawa entitled “Towards a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines,” which 71 States attended (47 participating and 24 observer States). The “Ottawa Declaration,” issued on 5 October, signed by 50 States, urged a total APL ban to be concluded and signed by December 1997, and to enter into force in 2000. The Declaration also called for a follow-up conference to be hosted by Belgium in June 1997. In December 1996, 157 States committed themselves to this goal in United Nations General Assembly Resolution [51/45S](#), which called upon all countries to conclude a new international agreement totally prohibiting anti-personnel mines on a high priority basis. No State opposed the resolution and only 10 abstained.

Austria took the lead in the development and circulation of a draft anti-personnel mine ban treaty text and hosted two expert meetings to discuss a possible treaty text. The first meeting

was held on 12-14 February 1997 in Vienna and was attended by 111 States. The second meeting was held in late May of that same year. An expert’s meeting was held in Bonn from 24-25 April to discuss possible verification measures to be included in the final product. The “Fourth International Conference on the International Campaign to Ban Landmines” was held in Maputo (Mozambique) on 25-28 February 1997, and was attended by 60 States.

The “Brussels International Conference for a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines” was held in Brussels from 24-27 June with the participation of 154 States. 107 States committed to the achievement of a total ban within a year in the Brussels Declaration. The Declaration called for the convening of a conference in Oslo to negotiate such a ban on the basis of the draft prepared by the Austrian government.

Norway consequently hosted a meeting in the fall of 1997 to continue negotiations on an APL treaty text. Ninety-one countries took part in the negotiations and there were 38 observers, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), and the [United Nations \(UN\)](#). On 18 September, the participating States succeeded in adopting a draft treaty text without a vote. In December, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction was opened for signature in Ottawa and thereafter at the UN headquarters in New York. The Mine Ban Treaty entered into force on 1 March 1999, only 15 months after it was opened for signature. By that day, 133 States had signed the Convention, and 67 had ratified it.

In recognition of their contribution, the ICBL, a coalition of 1,000 non-governmental organizations in over 60 States, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997.

Obligations: A State Party commits not to use, develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain, or transfer to anyone anti-personnel mines (Article 1). It also agrees to destroy or ensure the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned, possessed, or controlled by it within four years of the entry into force of the Convention for this State (Articles 1 and 4); and to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control within 10 years of the entry into force of the Convention for this State (Article 5). A State Party commits to take all appropriate legal, administrative, and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control (Article 9).

Verification of Compliance:

Verification: States Parties are required to report regularly to the UN Secretary-General on all stockpiled mines, mined areas, mines retained for training purposes, destruction of mines, national implementation measures, and measures taken to prevent civilians from entering mined areas (Article 7). If there are concerns about a State Party's compliance with the Convention, another State Party may seek clarification through the UN Secretary-General, and if necessary a special meeting of States Parties could be held for the review of the matter. This meeting may authorize the sending of a fact-finding mission consisting of up to nine experts to the requested State Party with a three to 14-day notice.

Compliance: On the basis of the mission's report, the meeting of the States Parties may propose corrective actions or legal measures in accordance with the UN Charter.

Distinction from the 1980 CCW: The Mine Ban Treaty prohibits anti-personnel mines only. It does not affect anti-tank or anti-vehicle mines, which are regulated by the 1980 CCW.

Review Conferences: According to Article 12 of the Convention, the First Review Conference shall be convened by the UN Secretary-General five years after its entry into force. Additional review conferences can be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations if requested by one or more State Parties, provided the interval between review conferences is not less than five years.

Meeting of the States Parties: Article 11 of the Convention required that the first Meeting of the

States Parties take place one year after entry into force of the Convention. This meeting was held in Maputo, Mozambique from 3-7 May, 1999. Article 11 also requires additional Meetings of the States Parties to occur annually leading up to review conferences.

Developments:

2009: On 29 May, the First Preparatory Meeting for the Second Review Conference was held in Geneva.

In accordance with Article 12 of the Convention, the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, also known as the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World, was held from 29 November to 4 December in Cartagena, Colombia. Ambassador Susan Eckey of Norway served as President and 108 States Parties participated in the Conference. Twenty States and a number of organizations participated as observers.

During the Conference, Albania, Greece, Rwanda, and Zambia announced that they had completed clearance of all known mined areas. Argentina, Cambodia, Tajikistan, and Uganda submitted requests for extensions on their deadlines for the clearance of areas with APL. These four States also requested additional monetary and technical support from other States Parties to the Convention for completing these tasks. Argentina and Cambodia's deadlines were extended to 1 January 2020. Tajikistan's deadline was extended to 1 April, 2020. Uganda's deadline was extended to 1 August, 2012.

During the Review Conference, the [Cartagena Action Plan](#) was adopted, which outlines what must be done to better meet the needs of landmine survivors. The plan consists of 67 actions that States Parties pledged to take to reduce the threat of APL and provide additional political momentum for the Convention.

States present at the Review Conference also committed to hold an annual Meeting of States Parties until a third review conference. The Tenth Meeting of the States Parties is scheduled for 29 November to 3 December 2010. Gazmend Turdiu, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, is assigned to serve as president. The third review conference will take place at the end of 2014.

Documents for the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty can be found [here](#).

2008: The Ninth Meeting of States Parties was held from 24-28 November, and Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland was elected to preside over the Meeting.

The States Parties welcomed the [Geneva Progress Report](#) as a practical means to assess the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan and to identify priority areas of work.

This Meeting was the first time that States Parties considered requests for extensions on Article V deadlines. Fifteen States submitted [requests](#).

It was decided that the meetings of the Standing Committees would take place from 25-29 May 2009 and that the Second Review Conference will take place from 30 November-4 December 2009, with two preparatory meetings to be held on 29 May and 3-4 September.

2007: In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention and pursuant to decisions made at the 2004 First Review Conference and the Seventh Meeting of States Parties, the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty was held from 18 to 22 November 2007 at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center by the shores of the Dead Sea, Jordan. Taking place two months after the 10th anniversary of the Convention, representatives from the 156 States that have accepted the 1997 Mine Ban Convention attended the meeting. The meeting aimed to reinvigorate global interest in the Mine Ban Treaty, as well as highlight the importance of the Convention in the Middle East. Hosted by Jordan, a mine-affected state party, the meeting provided the opportunity to shed light on the reality of the challenges faced in implementation of the convention and creative and cost-effective measures to overcome these challenges. At the opening session, the meeting elected by acclamation His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan as its president in accordance with rule five of the rules of procedure.

Between the Seventh and Eighth Meetings, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Montenegro, and Palau had deposited their instruments of ratification or accession. By the time of the Eighth Meeting, 156 States had deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval, accession, or succession, while the convention had entered into force for 153 of them. The Dead Sea Progress Report adopted at the meeting outlined practical means to measure progress on the Nairobi Action Plan since the last meeting of states parties. By the close of the meeting, State Parties

adopted a voluntary template for assisting State Parties in requesting an extension under Article 5. The meeting also adopted amendments to the Article 7 reporting format to facilitate reporting on stockpiled anti-personnel mines discovered and destroyed after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed. The meeting noted the report by the director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), while State Parties expressed appreciation to the GICHD for the manner in which the Implementation Support Unit has made positive contributions in supporting states parties' efforts to implement the convention.

Several events were held to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Mine Ban Convention. A meeting was held in Vienna in February 2007 highlighting the efforts to assist landmine survivors in the last decade, while the Conference on Disarmament commemorated the 8th anniversary of the Convention's entry into force in March 2007. On 9 May 2007, celebrations were held in Brussels that focused on creating new perspectives for a world free of mines. In Oslo on 18 September 2007, an event commemorated the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Mine Ban Convention, while the 10th anniversary of the Convention's signing conference was celebrated in Ottawa from 30 November to 3 December 2007.

The United Nations General Assembly First Committee resolution on the convention received overwhelming support in 2007 with 154 votes in favor, zero opposed, and 18 abstentions.

2006: The Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty was held from 18-22 September 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland. Under the presidency of Australian Ambassador Caroline Millar, the meeting unanimously adopted its agenda, rules of procedure, and programme of work at its first plenary session. Delegations of 19 states parties, five observer states, and four observer organizations made statements in a general exchange of views during the first one and a half plenary sessions. The meeting considered the general status and operation of the convention, noting progress made and the challenges that remain in the convention's aims as well as the application of the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009. States parties also recognized the importance of the Coordinating Committee and the work of states parties through the Sponsorship Programme, which ensures widespread representation at meetings of the convention. States parties also discussed measures for the

preparation, submission, and consideration of requests for extension to Article 5 deadlines.

At the final plenary session, the meeting adopted its draft report, or [final report](#). While the first part of the final report outlined the organization and work of the meeting, the second part consisted of the Geneva Progress Report (GPR), which assesses progress made on achieving the goals set forth in the Nairobi Action Plan. Since the Sixth Meeting of States Parties, Ukraine, Haiti, the Cook Islands, and Brunei Darussalam had all deposited their instruments of ratification, bringing the number of ratifications to 151. It was noted that in 10 countries, non-state actors had made use of anti-personnel mines. The report also stated that destroying stockpiles of mines remained an issue for many states. States parties were also called on to identify mined areas in their jurisdiction and provide details on national demining plans. With regards to assisting land mine survivors, states parties were urged to strengthen involvement of healthcare, disability, and rehabilitation experts.

The president of the Seventh Meeting of states parties issued the Action Plan to Universalize and Implement the Mine Ban Convention. In October 2006, the president promoted the Action Plan at the United Nations General Assembly.

2005: The Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty was held from 28 November to 2 December in Zagreb, Croatia. The meeting offered states the first opportunity to assess progress in the implementation of the [Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009](#), which was adopted at the 2004 Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World. The state parties reaffirmed their commitments made at the 2004 summit and welcomed the Zagreb Progress Report as an instrument of measuring progress since the Nairobi summit. They also highlighted priority areas of work for the period between the Sixth and Seventh Meetings of States Parties. On the basis of a proposal introduced by Argentina and Chile, the state parties agreed to amend the Article 7 transparency reporting format to facilitate voluntary reporting on anti-personnel mines. The Sixth Meeting concluded with the adoption of a final report.

2004: The First Review Conference of the Treaty, titled the “Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World,” was held from 29 November to 3 December in Nairobi, Kenya. Under the presidency of Austrian Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, state parties examined a comprehensive review report that documented the operation and imple-

mentation of the convention since it entered into force in 1999. Member states adopted the [Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009](#), which outlined 70 specific actions they would undertake before the next review conference to address important challenges that remained. These actions included universalizing the convention; destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines; clearing mined areas; assisting victims; and other areas relating to transparency and information exchange, facilitating compliance, and implementation support. States further adopted the 2004 Nairobi Declaration as a symbol of their renewed commitment to achieving the goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines with no new victims. The conference also adopted an extensive final report.

The state parties agreed to hold the Second Review Conference during the second half of 2009.

2003: The Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty took place from 15-19 September 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, chaired the meeting as President.

One hundred and eleven States participated in the meeting, including 80 States Parties and 18 Non-States Parties. China, the country which has the largest stockpile of landmines in the world, for the first time attended the meeting as an observer. Two hundred and eighty representatives from NGOs as well as mine victims and mine survivors also participated in the meeting. A message from the UN Secretary-General was delivered, in which he strongly encouraged “those states and other partners in a position to do so to provide adequate and sustained technical and financial assistance to states affected by mines.”

After the general exchange of views, the meeting reviewed the general status and operation of the Convention. States Parties, observer States and observer organizations exchanged their views and provided updates on the following topics: the general status of implementation; universalization; mobilizing resources; intersessional work programme; coordinating committee; implementation support unit; sponsorship programme, matters pertaining to Article I, II, III, VII and IX; matters pertaining to compliance concerns; dialogue related to the facilitation and clarification of compliance; and the humanitarian impact of mines that may pose similar risks to civilian populations as anti-personnel mines.

States Parties held informal discussions on victim assistance and socio-economic reintegration, mine clearance, mine risk education and mine action technologies, and stockpile destruction.

The States Parties adopted the “Bangkok Declaration” at the conclusion of the meeting. In the Declaration, the States Parties reaffirmed their commitment “to the total eradication of anti-personnel mines and to addressing the insidious and inhumane effects of these weapons.”

The States Parties noted the importance of the upcoming First Review Conference in 2004. The meeting warmly welcomed the President’s Action Programme as a practical means of focusing the collective efforts of the States Parties and other actors on achieving the humanitarian goal of the Convention in the period leading to the First Review Conference. The Action Programme, which was prepared by the then-President, Ambassador Jean Lint of Belgium and adopted at the fourth meeting of States Parties in 2002, identified objectives and actions to effectively make progress in the period leading to the fifth Meeting of the States Parties.

The States Parties agreed to hold the Convention’s First Review Conference at UN facilities in Nairobi, Kenya from 29 November to 3 December 2004 and to hold Preparatory Meetings in the UN in Geneva on 13 February and 28-29 June 2004.

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