
First Review Conference
Nairobi, 29 November – 3 December 2004
Item 14 of the revised provisional agenda

Towards a Mine-Free World: The 2004 Nairobi Declaration

Prepared by the President-Designate

1. Seven years ago today, representatives of States – joined by international organizations and civil society – gathered in Ottawa to sign the Convention banning antipersonnel mines. In its short history the Convention has become the framework to pursue a conclusive end to the suffering caused by antipersonnel mines and great progress in this pursuit has been made. Today, we, the high representatives of States Parties to the Convention again have gathered in the presence of the global public conscience here at the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World. We have done so to mark our accomplishments, to take stock of our remaining challenges and to recommit ourselves to ending the scourge of antipersonnel mines.

We celebrate the remarkable advances made towards our common goal of forever ending the suffering caused by antipersonnel mines:

2. One-hundred-forty-three States have joined this effort and have established a strong international norm that is recognised beyond the Convention's membership. Whereas antipersonnel mines were until recently in widespread use, their deployment is now rare, their production has decreased dramatically and trade in this weapon has virtually ceased. The number of new victims has fallen significantly and more of those who have survived are receiving assistance. Major strides have been made in clearing mined areas. And together we have destroyed more than 37 million stockpiled mines. These achievements have been fueled by a unique spirit of cooperation between States and civil society – a partnership that has become a model for addressing other humanitarian, development and disarmament problems.

While great progress has been made, we acknowledge that considerable challenges remain:

3. We remain deeply concerned that this insidious weapon continues to kill or maim thousands of people each year, adding to the hundreds of thousands of landmine survivors requiring life-long care. The presence of landmines still blocks the return of displaced persons, hinders the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals that we have pledged to meet, and impedes States and peoples from building confidence between one another.

In particular we call upon those States best poised to exercise international leadership to join our effort. Some of these States possess vast stocks of antipersonnel mines and continue to use this inhumane weapon.

Conscious that our task is not yet complete, we pledge our unwavering commitment to achieving the promise of a world free of antipersonnel mines:

4. We will strengthen our efforts to clear mined land, to destroy stockpiled antipersonnel mines and to assist landmine victims. Together as representatives of both affected States and those spared this scourge, we pledge to work in partnership, fulfilling our shared responsibility to provide the required human, technical and financial resources. We will condemn any use of antipersonnel mines by any actor. And we shall persevere until the Convention has been universally applied and its aims fully achieved.
