



NEWS RELEASE

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WORLD TO GATHER FOR MILESTONE LANDMINE SUMMIT

Geneva – The international community will gather for a landmark global summit on the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines, in Nairobi, Kenya, 29 November – 3 December, 2004.

The *Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World* will be the milestone First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention, and the most significant event in the life of the treaty since its historic signing in 1997. The final formal meeting in advance of the Summit, attended by delegates representing more than 100 states and relevant organizations, concluded in Geneva today.

“Enormous progress has been made in the effort to end the human suffering caused by anti-personnel mines, but much important work still remains,” said Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria, President-Designate of the Summit. “At the Nairobi Summit, the international community will be called on to clearly recommit itself to finishing the job.”

Nairobi Summit participants will review the status and operation of the Convention, and produce a concrete action plan for the next five years. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who is expected to attend the Summit, has called on States to participate at the highest possible level.

Ambassador Peter O. Ole Nkuraiyia, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya, and Secretary-General of the Nairobi Summit, underlined the Kenyan Government’s commitment as Summit host. “It is significant that this international gathering is being held in Africa, the world’s most mine-affected region,” said Ambassador Nkuraiyia. “Kenya is free of mines. We are, however, hosting this landmark Summit as an act of solidarity with mine-affected countries in our sub-region, in Africa as a whole, and throughout the world, with a view to addressing the plight of mine victims.”

The 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Jody Williams of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, voiced high expectations for the Summit. “Our campaigners around the world are lobbying more countries to embrace the Convention in advance of the Summit. We call on treaty members to show bold leadership and deliver concrete plans and commitments in Nairobi.”

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