



## NEWS RELEASE

17 November 2004

### HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FIGURES AND INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITIES TO TAKE PART IN NAIROBI SUMMIT ON A MINE-FREE WORLD

Geneva – High-level political representatives and internationally renowned activists and sporting figures will be among those gathering at the upcoming *Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World* to be held in Nairobi, Kenya 29 November to 3 December.

The Nairobi Summit is the landmark First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines, and will assess the remarkable progress made since the Convention entered into force five years ago, and the serious challenges still remaining.

“The Nairobi Summit is the chance for leaders at the highest level to reaffirm commitments to end the suffering caused by landmines,” said Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria, the Summit’s President-Designate. “Therefore I am pleased that political figures from mine-affected and donor states are scheduled to take part in the Summit, including the President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki, the Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, and the Vice-President of Colombia, Francisco Santos Calderón.”

The Deputy Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Tajikistan and Thailand have also confirmed their participation. In addition, announcements on the participation of at least a dozen other heads of state are expected in coming days.

Personalities taking part in the Summit include Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, who will convene a special summit of landmine survivors. Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Jody Williams and Shirin Ebadi, and this year’s Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, will lead a panel on responses to war. A host of world class runners, including world marathon record holder Paul Tergat and Ethiopian athletics legend Haile Gebrselassie, will participate in the *Run Towards a Mine Free World* scheduled for Saturday 27 November.

“Celebrities did their part seven years ago in raising awareness of the human cost of landmines and they will do so again at the Nairobi Summit,” said Ambassador Amina C. Mohamed of Kenya.

A list of key media opportunities at the Summit is available at: [www.nairobisummit.org/press](http://www.nairobisummit.org/press)

#### **For further information, please contact:**

Kerry Brinkert

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Tel: 41-(0)-79-687-2257

E-mail: [k.brinkert@gichd.ch](mailto:k.brinkert@gichd.ch)

**Please note:** 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.