

**The Road to the 2004 Nairobi Summit
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Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

Thanks to Romania and the organisers of this workshop for providing an excellent and useful opportunity to assess progress and remaining challenges in the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty in South Eastern Europe. The Reay Group workshop is one of the first regional meetings that will be held throughout the year leading us to the *2004 Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World*, the first Review Conference of the Convention. These regional meetings, held in Ouagadougou, Bogota, Bujumbura, Kabul, Nairobi, Vilnius, aim at making progress and concrete work to ensure that the Nairobi Summit is a success.

Since 1992, the ICBL has engaged in a sustained and systematic global effort to establish the antipersonnel mine ban. After securing the treaty banning antipersonnel mines in 1997, we have relentlessly promoted its full universalization and effective implementation. Through an unprecedented initiative, we are monitoring compliance with the treaty and the norm that is rapidly being established against the antipersonnel mine.

Together, we are making tremendous strides in eradicating this weapon and in saving lives and limbs in every region of the world. We expect that governments attending the first Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty in November will also highlight the immense progress that has been made since 1997 in ridding the world of antipersonnel mines. The Review Conference is being called the “*2004 Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World*,” given the location of the event, Africa, the most mine affected continent and because the event will mark the most significant gathering of world leaders to discuss the global landmine problem since the historic December 1997 Convention signing ceremony in Ottawa.

On this road to a Mine Free World we also know that tremendous challenges remain, which will be overcome only if we all strengthen our commitment against landmines, in Nairobi. We believe that the Review Conference should be a watershed event in the life of the Mine Ban Treaty, not only an opportunity to review the past five years, but, most importantly, to chart the way forward for the full implementation and universalisation of the treaty. We encourage States Parties to participate at the highest possible level and to ensure that what comes out of this important event are strong commitments, and concrete and results oriented planning for the next five years. The ICBL is urging governments attending the Review Conference to adopt a powerful declaration and action programme recommitting themselves to overcome the challenges that remain.

In September 2003 the ICBL adopted an Action Plan and has identified some of the challenges that remain, both globally and regionally, and that need to be addressed before or by the time of the Review Conference.

Universalisation

In the lead-up to the Review Conference, States Parties should redouble their efforts to universalize the Mine Ban Treaty. We hope that by November 150 states will have joined the Convention. With the ratification of Greece, this year, and accession by Turkey and Serbia

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and Montenegro, South Eastern Europe is now fully on board and should encourage other States who remain outside the Convention to join. Following the excellent example of Greece and Turkey, countries such as India and Pakistan could make joint declarations on the mine-ban, as first steps in wider tension reduction.

The treaty's effectiveness is compromised by the failure of states in the former Soviet Republics, in the Middle East and North Africa, and parts of the Asia-Pacific region to come on board. Major antipersonnel mine producers and stockpilers, such as China, India, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States have also refused to join. Together, these five nations hold an estimated 180 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines – nearly 90 percent of the world's total.

We continue to put pressure on these countries to join the treaty, in the lead-up to the Nairobi Summit, or adopt interim measures that will demonstrate their solidarity with victims and their interest in this global humanitarian problem. We are also urging them to send representatives to the Review Conference.

NSA

The engagement of non-state actors is another important aspect of the establishment of the new international norm that the MBT represents. Many of the NGOs involved with the ICBL have been increasingly attempting to educate and convince non-state actors about the importance of banning antipersonnel mines, cooperating in victim assistance and mine clearing activities. States Parties, when in a position to do so, should help create the conditions to allow international organizations and NGOs to engage safely and expeditiously with non-state actors on a landmines ban, survivor assistance, mine risk education and clearing activities.

Establishing the norm by condemning use

We need States Parties to be more active and vigilant in condemning instances of antipersonnel mine use around the globe. The Review Conference should serve to reinforce the new international norm against any use of antipersonnel mines by anyone. The ICBL has condemned, and we have called upon States Parties to condemn, loudly and consistently those who choose to stay outside of the norm, particularly those who continue to use antipersonnel mines. Without question, Mine Ban Treaty States Parties can do more to criticize and take action to address concerns, both diplomatically and otherwise, with those who continue to use antipersonnel mines.

Article 1,2 & 3

It is especially important that the States Parties address key treaty implementation issues, such as the interpretation of 'assist' (Article 1), definitions (Article 2), and mines retained for training (Article 3). At the treaty's Fifth Meeting of States Parties in September 2003, States Parties agreed to try to reach common understandings before the Review Conference on these issues of concern. We believe that the Convention will be stronger if ambiguity is removed and State practice consistent.

SP destruction

We are calling on all States Parties to complete their stockpile destruction by their deadlines, if not earlier in the period before the Nairobi Summit. In SEE, 9 SP already completed the

destruction of their SP, and two are in the process of eliminating their SP (Romania and Cyprus), the newest SP need to announce their plans in their transparency report, and some already started some activities. We challenge all but the newest SP to have completed destroying stocks by the Nairobi Summit, and the 3 newest to have announced plans for and begun implementing stockpile destruction.

National implementation measures

States Parties should strive to take the necessary legislative steps to implement the treaty at home by the time of the Review Conference. It is disappointing that so few have complied with this key provision of the Convention. LM identified 23 SP who have domestic legislation in process, including 3 in this region (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia). We urge these States Parties to complete the process by the Nairobi Summit and other States Parties who have to comply with Article 9 to initiate a legislative or administrative process without more delay.

More action on compliance measures

We are urging more action on compliance measures. States Parties need to ensure a more coordinated, systematic and effective response to compliance concerns. This should be done by the time of the 2004 Nairobi Summit.

Mine Action

The Review Conference is significant because it marks the midway point between the Mine Ban Treaty's entry-into-force, in 1999, and the date when the first States that accepted the Convention will be required to have cleared mined areas, in 2009. The ICBL is urging mine affected SP to ensure that a plan is in place, and demonstrate steps toward its implementation, which will allow them to meet this important deadline of the Convention. It is very important that these plans be in place before the Review Conference, as the post 2004 Action Plan, as well as donor decisions, will be based on what is known at that time.

ICBL also challenges those whose problems are less severe to have completed implementation of Article 5 by the Review Conference. To do so, we also hope that mine affected SP will make the best use of mechanisms in place for the implementation of the Convention to share Plan, Priorities, Progress and Problems they have to implement clearing activities and mine risk education on their territories.

This region include 9 mine affected States (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro and Turkey). The deadlines for 4 states in this region are 2009 and 2010.

Meeting the treaty deadline for completion of mine clearance will not be possible without a renewed political and financial commitment of the donor community to finish the work. ICBL expects that States Parties in a position to do so will strengthen their assistance to mine affected countries.

Victim Assistance

The suffering of survivors was the core reason of the NGOs original commitment against anti-personnel mines in 1992. This is also what brought so many states and organisations to work together to ensure that a proper answer would be given to the victims of these

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indiscriminate weapon. New mine casualties were registered last year in 65 countries, including 7 in the region. But even if the number of new casualties decreases, the number of survivors continues to grow, and in most mine-affected states, the assistance available for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society is hopelessly inadequate.

For the Nairobi Summit to be a success, the ICBL expect SP to raise Victim Assistance higher on their agenda, and

- All Mine-affected States to develop and/or implement a plan of action to address the needs and rights of mine survivors, and more generally to improve rehabilitation services for all persons with disabilities.
- All mine-affected States to develop and/or fully implement legislation to protect the rights of all persons with disabilities, including mine survivors.

ICBL also expects all SP to

- Strengthen their understanding of their responsibility to provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims as enshrined in Article 6.3 of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The challenges ahead are daunting, but we can only meet them if the treaty and the landmine issue continue to be given high priority by governments and NGOs, and if political will remains strong.

To do so, the ICBL is doing its share of the work and preparing hard the Nairobi Summit.

- We participate in the main events organised by our colleagues from States Parties or the ICRC, such as the launch of the preparatory process in Cyprus, the regional meetings;
- We use the opportunity of our LM regional meetings to organise events with governments, Bishkek, Bogota, Bujumbura, Kabul...
- We are working with our country campaigns to engage them in talking to their government to prepare the next intersessional week;
- We exchange information and ideas, and work with our partners on strategies on communication, media, universalisation, implementation of the MBT.
- With the Landmine Monitor report we are providing an annual update in great detail of the progress being made towards meeting the treaty's objectives, with a network of over 100 researchers around the world, in a unique example of ngo/government cooperation.
- We have set up our Rev Conf website

In Nairobi, ICBL members will also bring their experience and skills to contribute to the success of the Conference. Events are being organised now and include participation of deminers, survivors, researchers and youth; a Nobel Peace Prize panel; an unprecedented presence of survivors who will organise a Summit; Exhibitions; Film screening; Peace Jam events and Youth events, a concert and a sports event.

We can best meet these challenges by maintaining and even intensifying the government-NGO partnership that has characterized this issue.

In the region of the South and Eastern Europe, our goal of a region free from the scourge of landmines is progressing fast. Let's work together to succeed !