Ottawa Convention  
Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention  
7th February 2003

**Article 1(c)**

The legality of joint military operations that involve both States Parties and non-States Parties that use anti-personnel mines has been questioned on the basis of Article 1 Paragraph 1(c).

Article 1 Paragraph 1(c) states that a State Party may “never under any circumstances” “assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party.”

The position of Brazil is well-known.

We did not intend to reiterate it. But we have to. The time requires.

Brazil is of the view that Article 1 of the Convention clearly bans joint operations with non-States Parties that may involve the use of anti-personnel mines.

Even if the States Parties involved in such operations do not participate directly and actively in the laying of anti-personnel mines, the operations should be considered illegal if the use of landmines by a non-State Party is of direct military benefit to those States Parties.

In the absence of such a broad interpretation of the term “assist”, Article 1 would contain a serious and unfortunate loophole.

Though Brazil is not part of a military alliance and belongs to a region that has known no significant armed conflicts for more than a century, we acknowledge the crucial importance of the issue.

Article 1 sets also forth a broad obligation against the transiting of anti-personnel mines in the territory of a State Party and the stockpiling of mines belonging to a non-State Party.

For the integrity of the Convention, Brazil urges all States Parties to commit strictly to observe the provisions of Article 1.