

**Country Paper on Papua New Guinea**  
**On**  
**The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production**  
**and Transfer of Anti-Personal Mines and on their Destruction.**

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**The Status of the Ottawa Convention for Papua New Guinea**

Papua New Guinea is a non-signatory country and is presently recorded as being in the process of completing its internal process to accede to the Ottawa Convention.

Papua New Guinea does not have a land mine problem and PNG Defense Force maintains only a small stockpile of less than one hundred mines for training purposes. These are command-detonated claymore mines imported from Australia twenty-one years ago.

Papua New Guinea has always supported the Ottawa Convention, having sent representatives to various regional and international meetings concerning the Convention. PNG has voted in favor of the UN General Assembly Resolution 54/54 B in December 1999, calling for the universalisation of the Treaty, as it has done on similar pro-ban resolutions in previous years.

In 1996 a Policy Submission seeking approval for PNG to become a party to the Treaty was prepared and submitted to the National Executive Council for approval. The NEC subsequently approved the submission in Decision No. NG 79/97 OF 21 November 1997.

Unfortunately, due to both political and administrative exigencies the ratification process was never completed. However, in June 2003 another submission was made for urgent ratification of the Convention in accordance with *Section 117 (5) (b) of the Constitution*. The normal treaty ratification procedure under *Section 117 (3) of the Constitution* was therefore waived in favor of the procedure stipulated under *Section 117 (5) (b)*

*Section 117 (5) (b)* waives *Section 117 (3)* in circumstances where both the Speaker (acting on behalf of the Parliament) and the Prime Minister are satisfied that the giving of the consent of Papua New Guinea to be bound to a party is too urgent a matter to allow for that treaty to go through the normal ten (10) sitting days ratification requirement.

A Certificate of Compliance has now been issued by the Acting Speaker of Parliament indicating that the Speaker and the Prime Minister have given their consent for PNG to be bound as a party to the Ottawa Convention in accordance with *Section 117 (5) (b) of the Constitution*.

Instruments of accession are now being prepared for submission to our Foreign Minister. They will thereafter be sent to our Mission in New York to be deposited with the United Nations.

In accordance with Article 17 of the Convention, the Convention shall enter into force for Papua New Guinea on the first day of the sixth month after the date on which Papua New Guinea has deposited its Instruments of Accession.