

Statement on an Information kit to develop implementing legislation for the
Ottawa Convention

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with the support of ICBL and the Government of Belgium, prepared an information kit on the development of national legislation to implement the Ottawa Convention. This kit had been called for in the President's Action Program, adopted at the last meeting of States Parties in September 2000:

"6. Promoting the establishment of national implementing legislation:
The SCE [Standing Committee of Experts] invited States Parties to work with interested organizations to develop a sample package of existing implementation legislation to assist other States Parties in establishing legislation. In response to this suggestion, the ICRC will work with the ICBL, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, Belgium and Zimbabwe, and other interested parties on developing and disseminating such a package of legislation. "

The purpose of the Kit is to assist States in developing legislation to implement the Convention and it identifies the elements to be considered when preparing such laws.

Although this kit focuses on national legislative measures to be adopted by States, it should be recalled that other obligations under the Convention may require implementation through administrative action or practical measures. These include the clearing of mined land, the provision of medical and rehabilitative care for mine victims and the furnishing of assistance to mine-affected countries. Also relevant are the need to review export licences, the notification of companies involved in the production and sale of AP mines and the revision of military doctrine.

To date, 27 States are known to have enacted national legislation. These States have done so either by adopting "stand-alone" legislation or through amendments to existing provisions in their domestic legislation. The ICRC welcomes any additional information on legislative measures taken by other States.

it can be noted that the Information Kit focuses on "stand-alone" legislation and includes the laws adopted by three civil law States and three common laws as examples. The legislation adopted by France, Mali, New Zealand, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom are annexed to the kit.

These laws were selected in order to provide a variety of laws from civil laws and common laws States and are presented in their original language, in order to ensure accuracy. The ICRC database on national implementation measures, available on the ICRC website, contains other examples of legislation adopted by States.

The kit is currently available in English, French and Spanish and will be translated into Russian.

For its part, the ICRC will distribute the kit to interested governments through its Headquarters and delegations in the field and will also make the kit available on its website at www.icrc.org, with a link to our database.

The ICRC encourages States Parties to make use of the kit and remains available to provide technical assistance to States in their efforts to adopt legislative measures to implement the Convention.