

Press Release



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ap mine ban convention

International Community Outlines Next Steps Towards a Mine-Free World

Geneva, December 2010 – The international community has once again come together to renew its commitment to a mine-free world and has agreed to take the necessary steps to guarantee the rights of the survivors all over the world.

The Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) closed on 3 December in Geneva, with nations pledging to continue their work to clear minefields in mine affected countries.

“We welcome the commitment made at this meeting to strengthen efforts to implement the Convention,” said Ambassador Gazmend Turdiu of Albania, President of the 10MSP. “In addition, we have seen new commitments to encourage further acceptance of the Convention by States that have not yet joined our movement.”

Emphasising the progress achieved through the Convention, Ambassador Jürg Lauber of Switzerland said the Convention is a “success story fundamentally linked to Geneva”.

“I am pleased that we have been able to further improve the implementation mechanisms which are located here,” said Lauber. “This meeting has again underlined the importance of cooperation and assistance for achieving a mine-free world. It is absolutely crucial to include non-state actors in this cooperation as many people live in areas controlled by these groups,” said the Swiss Ambassador.

Turdiu thanked non-governmental organizations for their “vital” role in the work of the Convention. “If it weren’t for the ICRC and ICBL and their persistence in calling for a ban on anti-personnel mines, we might not be here today. We should all be grateful for their ongoing participation in the work of the Convention,” said Turdiu.

Steve Goose, director of the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch and head of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines’ delegation, noted the “impressive progress toward the full eradication of antipersonnel mines made in recent years,” something, “clearly highlighted at this meeting,” he said.

“But, serious concerns remain,” Goose noted, “as four countries are in violation of the treaty for missing their stockpile destruction deadline, six countries asked the meeting for a deadline extension to complete clearance of their mined areas, and hundreds of thousands of landmine survivors worldwide still need to see their rights respected and their needs met.”

Also during the week

Universalization was another key theme at the 10MSP, with Finland and Poland indicating that they are poised to join the Convention and with the United States taking part in the work of the Convention for only the second time.

The 10MSP also highlighted the need to empower all women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, including landmine survivors. Within the framework of an experts programme on victim assistance, the WHO, the ILO, UNESCO and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), launched their Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Guidelines.

Looking ahead, the States Parties designated Prak Sokhonn, President of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP), to be hosted by Cambodia in 2011. The 11MSP will take place in Phnom Penh from 28 November to 2 December 2011.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

The AP Mine Ban Convention was adopted in Oslo in 1997 and was opened for signature in Ottawa the same year; it entered into force in 1999.

To date 156 States are parties to the Convention, 152 of them now no longer hold stocks; almost 44 million mines have been destroyed by the States Parties.

34 of 50 States that at one time manufactured anti-personnel mines are now bound by the Convention's ban on production. Most other parties have put in place moratoria on production and / or transfers of mines.

Demining has resulted in millions of square metres of once dangerous land being released for normal human activity. 16 of 54 States Parties that originally reported mined areas have completed the task of clearing all such areas.

For more information **on what happened during the 10MSP** [visit the Convention's website](#). For pictures of the five-day meeting visit: [the Convention's flickr collection](#).

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