



## Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Facts and figures

(As of February 2016)

### What is the Anti-Personnel (AP) Mine Ban Convention?

- This is a short way of referring to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, also known as the Ottawa Convention.
- The AP Mine Ban Convention is the international community's comprehensive response to the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines, weapons that are indiscriminate and that last for decades after conflicts have ended.
- The Convention was adopted in Oslo on 18 September 1997 and opened for signature in Ottawa on 3 and 4 December 1997 at a ceremony that featured the participation of dozens of world leaders.
- For their determination in calling for the Convention, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and its coordinator Jody Williams were awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Convention entered into force on 1 March 1999.
- At their Third Review Conference in 2014, States Parties adopted at a high political level the *Maputo + 15 Declaration* in which they committed to intensify efforts to clear mined areas and to assist the victims and expressed their aspiration to meet their goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025.
- In 2016, the Convention is presided over by Chile. Chile has announced its intention to revitalize the commitment of all stakeholders, universalize the Convention's application and strengthen the Convention's programme of work.

### What is the purpose of the Convention?

- The purpose of the Convention is "to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel (AP) mines" through the pursuit of four core aims:
  - Universal acceptance of a ban on AP mines
  - Destruction of stockpiled AP mines
  - Clearance of mined areas
  - Assistance to mine victims.

### How many countries have joined?

162 States have ratified or have acceded to the Convention. They include:

- Most of the States that at one time used, stockpiled, produced or transferred AP mines
- The vast majority of States that are or have been affected by AP mines
- Every State in the Americas, except Cuba and the United States
- Every State in sub-Saharan Africa
- Every Member State of the European Union

## **How much progress has been achieved since 1999?**

### **Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines:**

States Parties have four years after entry-into-force to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under their jurisdiction or control.

- Of the 90 States Parties that reported stockpiled anti-personnel mines, 85 have completed their stockpile destruction programmes, with over 48 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed. Work continues to do the same for Belarus, Greece, Poland, Oman and Ukraine.

### **Clearing all areas containing anti-personnel mines:**

States Parties shall make every effort to identify all areas under their jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. States Parties have ten years to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas and return these areas to a state for normal human activity. If the States Parties are unable to do so in ten years, they may ask for extended deadlines.

- Of the 60 States Parties that have reported mined areas, 29 have reported that they have completed implementation of their mine clearance obligations in compliance with the Convention, with tens of millions of square metres of previously dangerous land due to the presence or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines released.
- 31 States Parties are still in the process of fulfilling their mine clearance obligations and it will take some of them several more years to do so.

### **Assisting the victims:**

The Convention was the first multilateral arms control / disarmament convention to include provisions to assist the victims of the weapons in question. In doing so, the Convention established a new norm.

- 29 States Parties have indicated that they have significant numbers – hundreds or thousands – of landmine survivors for which they must provide care.
- States Parties have agreed that victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks, including those related to the rights of persons with disabilities.
- The Convention has served as a catalyst for drawing attention to the plight of landmine survivors – and hence the challenges of all persons with disabilities – in some of the world's poorest countries.

### **Implementation support:**

The implementation of the Convention is supported by a secretariat based in Geneva and called the Implementation Support Unit (ISU). The ISU is mandated to provide support to the Convention machinery as a whole and to provide advice and technical support to individual States Parties implementing the Convention. The ISU conducts its work in coordination with all relevant organisations which participate in the work of the Convention.