

Press Release



Landmine ban convention enters into force for Somalia: All of Sub-Saharan Africa now formally bound by the treaty

Geneva – Somalia, one of the African nations most affected by landmines, is as of 1 October the newest State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or *Ottawa Convention*. In accordance with treaty provisions, Somalia undertakes to never, under any circumstances, use, produce or transfer anti-personnel mines, to assist the landmine survivors, to destroy its existing stockpile of mines within the next four years and to demine its territory within ten years. With Somalia's accession, every state in Sub-Saharan Africa is now bound by the Convention.

The Convention became binding international law for Somalia on 1 October 2012 - the first day of the sixth month after depositing its instrument of accession with the United Nations Secretary-General. Somalia's decision to join the treaty was agreed to unanimously by the Council of Ministers on 5 April. Somalia then deposited its instrument of accession on 9 April 2012, noting that Somalia would "undertake faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations contained" in the Convention.

Somalia, the 160th country to join the Convention, will participate as a State Party in the upcoming Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) which will take place 3-7 December 2012 in Geneva.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention was adopted in Oslo in 1997, opened for signature in Ottawa the same year and entered into force on 1 March, 1999.

Of the Convention's 160 States Parties, 155 no longer hold stocks of anti-personnel mines. Of the 59 States Parties that have reported mined areas, 20 have completed implementation of their mine clearance obligations.

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