



**ICBL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES  
2007**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The advocacy carried out by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines would not be possible without the grants and support from the following governments and organisations. We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to:

The government of Australia  
The government of Austria  
The government of Canada  
The government of Denmark  
The government of France  
The government of Germany  
The government of Ireland  
The government of Norway  
The government of Spain  
The government of Switzerland  
The European Commission  
UNMAS

## **FOREWORD**

As the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the year the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) was adopted and signed, 2007 provided several key opportunities for renewing energy around and interest in the treaty and the issue. Throughout the year, the ICBL created and distributed 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary-related materials, encouraged campaigners to organize special media or advocacy events, and participated in 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Austria, Belgium, Norway, and Canada. The ICBL's slogan for marking this milestone was "The Mine Ban Treaty: A Success in Progress", a message that resonated with all the stakeholders in this journey to a mine-free world.

As usual, the ICBL took part in the major international conferences on landmines, including a large and active delegation at the intersessional Standing Committee (ISC) meetings, which took place from 23-27 April 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland. The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (8MSP) from 18 to 22 November 2007 at the Dead Sea in Jordan, provided a useful hook for the ICBL to organize and participate in advocacy activities in the Gulf region in the lead up to the meeting, as well as to organize many side events, and undertake regional and international press work during the MSP itself.

Work on universalization remained a priority for the ICBL, as evidenced by a solid number of missions to targeted countries by the ICBL Advocacy Director, Diplomatic Advisor, and other staff members and campaigners. A series of advocacy missions were conducted in 2007 to reach out to new audiences and to reinforce ICBL's messages to governments, parliamentarians, journalists and the general public. These missions, workshops and conferences, mainly focused on Central Asia and Middle East, provided an opportunity for ICBL staff to work with national campaigns on their planning and development of advocacy goals. The Treaty gained new members with the ratification of Indonesia and accession by Kuwait, Iraq and Palau.

The ICBL was also an active participant in the 'Oslo Process' to develop a cluster munitions treaty, using its experience from the Mine Ban Treaty to provide key support and accompaniment to the Cluster Munitions Coalition during the four major international

conferences (Oslo, Lima, Vienna and Wellington) that took place during 2007 and the first quarter of 2008.

Capacity building for ICBL members continued to be emphasized as the best way to influence policies in mine-affected states and States not Party to the treaty. As such, in 2007 the ICBL continued focusing on enhancing the skills of national campaigns and assessing their needs through individual communications and consultations, as well as group training.

The ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director was actively engaged in advocacy with States Parties, through her work with Geneva-based diplomats, the Coordinating Committee, Implementation Support Unit (ISU), ICRC and other partners based in Geneva, plus directly with State Party governments in international and regional meetings, implementation workshops and missions.

In 2007, the ICBL continued to use and develop communication tools to facilitate information exchanges within the campaign, including the improvement of its newsletter, a factsheet, an updated 'Messages Booklet to Campaigners', and finally, the production of a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special brochure and photo exhibition.

During the reporting period, the Landmine Monitor team worked on the 2007 report, with the ICBL staff providing input in accordance with their areas of expertise. The ICBL also continued to support, when possible, member campaigns to design programs to increase youth involvement in the activities of the ICBL.

Strategically, 2007 was a year for the ICBL to assess its resources, in preparation for the Second Review Conference in 2009. At the beginning of 2008, supplementary staff resources began to be hired in anticipation of increased demands in the lead up to the conference. The website is also being redesigned to make it more useful and accessible to ICBL members, other campaigners and stakeholders.

## **2007 ICBL ACTIVITIES: REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS**

### **A. Global Landmines Related Conferences**

#### **A.1 Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings, 23-27 April 2007**

The Intersessional Standing Committee meetings (ISC) took place from 23 to 27 April 2007 in Geneva. The meetings provided a forum for States Parties to give updates on their implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty as well as to discuss issues of concern for them or the community at large.

Along with the annual Meeting of States Parties (MSP), these meetings represent the most important opportunity of the year for the ICBL to present its views to governments on the implementation and universalization of the Ottawa Convention. The ICBL helped prepare the ISC meetings through participation in the monthly Coordinating Committee meetings of the Standing Committee Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs, Chairs of the Contact Groups (Universalization, Articles 7 & 9 and Resource Mobilization) and Sponsorship Group.

ICBL campaigners attended the ISC meetings in large numbers, with around 100 people from around the world attending. To facilitate overall communication and coordination, the ICBL

staff led daily morning briefings before the beginning of the official meetings. Campaigners were also given a booklet prepared by ICBL staff full of key facts and messages to use when meeting with government representatives. ICBL participants had dozens of bilateral meetings with governments and international organizations in order to ask for information and voice concerns, reporting on these at the morning briefings. They also organized lunchtime briefings and meetings, including Landmine Monitor researcher workshops, Working Group meetings, and an 8MSP preparation meeting. The ICBL also took advantage of the presence of a number of experienced campaigners to organize an internal workshop for Victim Assistance (VA) advocacy (*see below on national capacity building*).

Throughout the ISC meetings, ICBL was very active in the plenary sessions, delivering statements on all subjects on the agenda, including universalization, mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and other ban issues. In addition to a general statement on the status of VA work, landmine survivors presented a list of guiding principles, developed by the ICBL Working Group on Victim Assistance, that States Parties should consider when developing and implementing victim assistance programs. The ICBL was also particularly vocal on mine clearance, deploring the fact that many states with mine clearance deadlines in 2009 and 2010 were not on target to meet their obligations under Article 5, and that a handful have not yet cleared any mines.

To contribute to the work on the extension requests process, the ICBL issued a suggested list of criteria for assessing eventual requests. The goal was to show at an early stage to states considering making extension requests that such requests would be closely scrutinized. The ICBL also issued a paper on recommended guidelines for land release in order to steer this increasingly used technique in the right direction. All ICBL Statements and policy papers can be viewed at: <http://www.icbl.org/news/isc07docs>

## **A.2 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)**

The ICBL took advantage of the CCW meetings to hold meetings with government representatives on implementation and universalization. We also closely followed developments regarding the cluster munitions issue. During the CCW Review Conference, the ICBL supported the Cluster Munition Coalition by calling for rapid action to address the humanitarian consequences on civilian populations of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable humanitarian harm to civilians.

## **A.3 8th Meeting of States Parties, Jordan, 18-22 November 2007**

### *Preparation for the Meeting*

As in years past, the preparation for the 8MSP was undertaken with great enthusiasm and energy. The ICBL worked to coordinate a range of activities for the meeting, which included the participation of over 250 delegates from over 60 countries, photography exhibitions, working meetings, briefings and media events. Around 60 participants were sponsored by the ICBL, which entailed the coordination of travel arrangements to and from Amman, hotel reservations and registration through the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center on the Dead Sea. In total, the ICBL coordinated the registration of over 270 members and campaigners in cooperation with the NCDR.

In the run-up to the 8MSP, the ICBL originated the slogan “*The Mine Ban Treaty 1997-2007: A Success in Progress*”, to be integrated into all ICBL media events, statements and materials

related to the meeting and to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention. The slogan expresses our generally positive view of the Convention as a success, but shows that we cannot take its long-term success for granted since much work remains to be done. Three months prior to the 8MSP, this slogan was sent to campaigners to urge them to prepare for the meeting in several ways, by: organizing 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events in their countries; publicizing their campaign's concerns; meeting with their government to ensure that they attended the 8MSP with the appropriate level and composition of delegates; and, preparing their lobbying and media frameworks for the meeting.

In the preparation of the 8MSP, the ICBL worked closely with its partners, including the President-Designate, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan, the States Parties' Coordinating Committee, the Implementation Support Unit of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and others. Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director, participated in monthly meetings of the States Parties' Coordinating Committee, in which the structure and objectives for the 8MSP were developed. The ICBL also participated in the 8MSP Preparatory Meeting in Geneva in August, and provided substantial written and oral comments on the Dead Sea Progress Report over the course of the summer. The ICBL also suggested amendments to the annual transparency reporting forms to encourage states to report on stockpiles of mines discovered after States Parties reported completing the destruction of all known stocks. This suggestion was ultimately approved at the 8MSP.

Additionally, in October 2007, the ICBL staff sent letters to the ministers of foreign affairs of both States Parties and States not Party to the Mine Ban Treaty to remind them of the forthcoming meeting and to express our central policy concerns and our hopes for the outcome of the meeting. States Parties were urged to send a high-level delegation to the meeting, including officials from health, social services, development or other relevant ministries. States not Party were reminded that states that had not yet joined the treaty were also welcome to attend the 8MSP as observers.

### *During the Meeting*

At the 8MSP, the international community gathered in the Middle East for the first time to discuss the problems caused by antipersonnel mines and the solutions proposed by the Mine Ban Treaty. The ICBL held a series of internal working meetings the weekend before the opening of the 8MSP, in Amman and at the Dead Sea, as well as during the conference, to facilitate the exchange of ideas between campaigners, and to communicate important information to ICBL members and establish common goals for the week.

### Working Meetings

In addition to the official MSP, all ICBL members were invited to participate in the *ICBL Orientation Session*, which took place on Saturday, 17 November, to communicate essential logistical information to ICBL campaigners about the activities scheduled in the upcoming week, and to set objectives for advocacy and lobbying sessions between campaigners and governmental delegations during the 8MSP. ICBL Advisory Board members were also invited to participate in an *Advisory Board Meeting*, which also took place on Friday, 23 November, followed by a general *Campaign Meeting* on the same day. At both meetings, ICBL members discussed campaigning activities in the upcoming two years before the Second Review Conference. It was decided that an emphasis would be placed on mine-affected States Parties with 2009 and 2010 Article 5 deadlines, and on States Parties included in the list of 24 countries with the greatest needs in terms of victim assistance.

### Daily Briefings

In addition, daily briefings were held each morning before the opening of the official meetings. These meetings were attended by about 100 ICBL members daily, and provided a forum for ICBL members to discuss the previous day's developments as well as to draw attention to the important issues and events of the upcoming day. The briefings allowed campaigners to share information about previous lobbying meetings, and to strategize on specific points for future discussions with country delegations. They also permitted campaigners and ICBL staff to speak together, to motivate each other, and to participate equally in the definition of objectives for the day and the week.

### Statements

The ICBL delivered fifteen statements during the official meetings of the 8MSP, including two during an 'informal' afternoon session on Article 5. The Head of the ICBL Delegation and the Treaty Implementation Director played important roles in drafting these statements, along with the Advocacy Director, members of the working groups, member organization executive directors and members of the Landmine Monitor board.

The Head of the ICBL Delegation, Mr. Steve Goose, made statements on the General Exchange of Views, Stockpile Destruction and Mines Retained for Training (Article 3). The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director, Ms. Tamar Gabelnick, delivered three statements on Mine Clearance (Mainstreaming, Land release and Clearance), one on Article 7, and one on Article 9 (Preventing and Suppressing Prohibited Activities), while the ICBL Advocacy Director, Ms. Simona Beltrami, communicated the ICBL message on Universalization. Mr. Stan Brabant of Handicap International and the Mine Risk Education Sub Working Group, presented the ICBL's statement regarding Mine Risk Education. Two statements on Victim Assistance were given: an overview of Victim Assistance findings of the Landmine Monitor 2007; and another written by landmine survivors about their specific concerns, read by survivors from Algeria, Ethiopia and Jordan. Additional 8MSP information and all the ICBL's statements can be found on: <http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/8msp>

### ICBL Input into Official Documents

The Dead Sea Progress Report (DSPR) was the key document issued from the 8MSP. Its purpose was to monitor and support application of the Mine Ban Treaty and the *Nairobi Action Plan (NAP)* by measuring progress made between the Seventh and Eighth Meetings of the States Parties. The report also highlighted priority areas of work for the States Parties, the Co-Chairs and the President between the Eighth and Ninth Meetings of the States Parties. It built upon the 2005–2006 Geneva Progress Report (ZPR) and was the second in a series of annual progress reports before the 2009 Second Review Conference.

The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director, in consultation with ICBL members, provided both oral and written comments on the DSPR, including comments on consecutive drafts and interventions during the 8MSP Preparatory Meeting held in August 2007. The ICBL also worked in close consultation with the Stockpile Destruction Co-chairs on the proposal for transparency report language intended to encourage states to report on newly discovered stockpiles of mines and on how they were destroyed.

The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director worked especially closely with mine action operators to develop views on releasing land through area reduction or cancellation. The product was a paper on ICBL guidelines on land release that was issued at the April interessional SC meetings and presented at the 8MSP. The ICBL also spoke on the subject of linking mine action and development, expressing concern about how the process unfolded in the European Commission and recommending more education about the changes in funding rules to concerned parties in donor and recipient states alike.

### Lobbying

ICBL campaigners were dynamically involved in lobbying during the 8MSP in Jordan. During the official as well as unofficial parts of the meeting, they seized opportunities to meet with government delegations to discuss particular challenges in universalization or implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, and to inspire and advocate for progress.

ICBL members reported meeting with over 50 states parties and states not party present at the 8MSP, as well as with representatives of UN agencies, the European Commission and the Arab League. With states parties the ICBL members focused their lobbying efforts on advances in regard to timely stockpile destruction and clearance, as well as to adequate victim assistance, with a special focus on the VA 24 countries. States not party were actively encouraged to join the Mine Ban Treaty and to undertake interim measures in the meantime, such as voting in favour of the UNGA, submitting a voluntary Article 7 report, and continuing to attend the Meetings of States Parties as well as the Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings.

### Side Events

During the 8MSP, the ICBL organized and participated in different activities to raise further discussion on the landmine problem and to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty. The ICBL side events included several presentations, briefings, plays and photo exhibitions providing an alternative forum for discussion beyond the official 8MSP meetings to incite further thought and awareness on the landmine issue. Among its activities, the ICBL organized presentations featuring campaigners and member organizations:

- The week before the 8MSP, the ICBL released in the Gulf region its 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Landmine Monitor Report*, outlining 2007 key findings, developments and concerns to participants. The event was attended by a large number of journalists, governmental and NGOs representatives. A briefing on the major findings of the report was also given to government representatives at the 8MSP.
- “*Environmental Impact of Landmines and ERW (the case of arid regions)*” [Arab Network] provided a comprehensive picture of the impact of landmines on the environment, offering an unusual perspective on the landmine scourge. The briefing showed how the presence of landmines and ERWs in the land cause irreversible damage to the ecosystem, also affected by mine action activities.
- “*Turning Mine and ERW into Improvised Explosive Devices: the urgent need for mine action in the Middle East and North Africa*” [ICBL/Protection] showed how explosives from landmines and ERW can and have been used for illegal activities (fishing, mining, terrorism, etc.) in Egypt, Iraq and other parts of the Middle East and North Africa. The briefing encouraged countries in the region to plan an integral mine action programme as well as join the Mine Ban Treaty.
- Handicap International Belgium hosted a presentation in Arabic featuring the booklet “*Circle of Impact: the fatal footprint of cluster munitions on People and Communities*”.
- Handicap International held a panel entitled “*Equal opportunities, rebuilding livelihoods for Landmines Victims and Persons with Disabilities*”, providing a general overview on economic integration of persons with disabilities with a special focus on the experience of Algerian landmine survivors. The speakers spoke about the “right to decent work” and the role played by microfinance in development projects.
- Landmine Survivors Network Jordan, with the presence of H.E. Prince Mired, organized a *Volleyball Game* on the terrace of the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre to promote games and sports for persons with disabilities and landmines survivors.

- “*Towards the Mine Ban Treaty in Nepal*”, presented by the Campaign to Ban Landmines Nepal (NCBL), presented recent developments in Nepal and positive signs coming from the government toward the landmines problem. The NCBL also illustrated the remaining challenges and presented its activities and advocacy efforts in order to urge the government to accede to the Treaty soon. The event ended with a short documentary, “*No more Mines*”, by the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines.
- To draw attention to the ongoing difficulties posed by non-state actors (NSAs) using landmines and the remaining challenges toward the universalization of the Convention, Geneva Call presented a side event on the “*Universalization of the Convention in the Middle East: Engaging States and Non-State Actors*”.
- The ICBL and the Cluster Munition Coalition held a panel presentation called “*Update on the international process to ban cluster munitions*” to go over the new challenges and opportunities raised in the Oslo process.

#### The 2007 Youth Model Review Conference

In collaboration with the ICBL, Mines Action Canada (MAC) coordinated “*In Our Lifetime: The 2007 Youth Model Review Conference*” for youth delegates to 8MSP. The Youth Model Review Conference (Model RevCon) engaged 51 young people from 29 countries in an intensive one-week program. It was the next iteration of the successful International Youth Symposia coordinated by Mines Action Canada in 2004 and 2005. The Model RevCon was a simulation of the Second Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention scheduled for 2009.

It was an opportunity for youth to get more involved in the work of the ICBL and to make tangible contributions to achieving a mine-free world in their lifetime. Representing assigned states or organizations, youth delegates measured the progress made since the Nairobi Action Plan was adopted in 2004. While playing the role of their assigned country/organization, youth delegates voiced their innovative ideas and solutions regarding the next steps needed in truly achieving a mine-free world. The final product of the Model RevCon was the Jordan Action Plan with 46 articles that would form the basis of future mine action advocacy and implementation work of the delegates. Two youth delegates presented the Action Plan to the 8MSP in plenary.

#### Photo Exhibits

To celebrate the ten years of the Convention, the ICBL team created “*The Mine Ban Treaty 1997-2007: A Success in Progress*”, a very rich photo exhibition that showed the landmines problem and the enormous work of the campaign over the past ten years. Emphasis was put on the efforts made on advocacy, victim assistance, mine risk education, mine clearance, and on new challenges of indiscriminate weapons beyond landmines, such as cluster munitions. An unveiling of this “*Success in Progress*” photo exhibition, marking the 10th Anniversary of the Convention, was organized in the ground floor near to the 8MSP plenary with comments given by photographer and long-time campaigner, John Rodsted, and former ICBL coordinator and Nobel Peace Laureate, Jody Williams.

Finally, many other relevant photo exhibitions decorated the gallery floor of the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre, among them: “*Mines, People: living with, surviving and smiling*” [Moviment Per la Pau]; “*Livehoods*” [Handicap International]; “*Cluster Munitions*” and “*Western Sahara and Guinea Bissau*” [Landmine Action]; and “*Mined America*”, by Vinicius Souza and Maria Eugênia Sá in cooperation with the Brazilian Campaign to Ban Landmines.

## **B. Universalization**

Universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty remained one of the ICBL's priorities during the reporting period. The ICBL conducted advocacy for the universalization of the Convention by applying the same tools and methods that staff and national campaigns had developed over the past years for targeted countries.

Universalization efforts were seen as a continuation of work done in previous years, with a special emphasis on regions with low adherence to the MBT: Asia-Pacific, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and especially the Middle East, in light of plans to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties in Jordan in November 2007.

In the Middle East, efforts focused on the Gulf Cooperation Council area, and in particular on Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman. Activities included an advocacy trip to Bahrain and Kuwait in March 2007, participation in a landmine-related seminar organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Kuwait in June, and another advocacy visit to Oman and Bahrain in November. On this occasion, in Bahrain the ICBL organized a seminar for MPs which resulted in a call from Parliament to the government to accede to the MBT as soon as possible. In the course of the year, Kuwait and Iraq acceded, and both Bahrain and Oman showed a positive attitude towards the treaty.

ICBL universalization activities were not limited to advocacy visits, but included constant communications with governments in States not Parties as well as with other actors engaged in universalization efforts through the 'Universalization Contact Group', coordinated by Canada.

The ICBL Advocacy Director conducted ongoing work to promote the convention via meetings with States not Parties in the context of the Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings (Geneva, 23-27 April 2007) and Meeting of States Parties (Dead Sea, Jordan, 18-22 November 2007). These included Bahrain, China, Georgia, India, Israel, Laos, Libya, Nepal, Oman, Poland, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

Letters encouraging participation in MBT-related meetings, as well as steps to move closer to accession, were sent to States not Parties on 1 March 2007, and again ahead of the Meeting of States Parties. Letters were also sent to encourage States not Parties to vote in favour of the annual UNGA resolution on the implementation of the MBT, which calls for universalization. This action was complemented by lobbying at the UN in New York on the occasion of the First Committee Meeting where the resolution was to be adopted (October), as well as before the plenary vote in December. In 2007, 18 States not Parties voted in favour of the resolution, including Kazakhstan and Laos for the first time.

Finally, the ICBL provided support to member organizations in States not Parties including Azerbaijan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland and Syria. for national campaigning activities aiming to promote the MBT.

## **B.1 Denouncing the Use of Antipersonnel Landmines**

In 2007, ICBL was also vigilant in monitoring and denouncing any new use (or planned use) of antipersonnel landmines. In particular, activities focused on the ongoing use by government armed forces and non-state armed groups in Burma/Myanmar, as well as on use by Maoists insurgents in India, Kashmir, and by rebels in Turkey.

The Thailand Campaign to Ban Landmines has urged negotiators in the Burmese internal conflict to include in their agreements specific actions to alleviate the suffering caused by the

use of anti-personnel mines. Between 3 and 10 January 2007, representatives of the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and the 7th Brigade of the ethnic armed opposition group Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) met in Yangon to discuss cessation of hostilities. The scope and content of any agreement between the two parties have not been disclosed. The Thailand CBL called on negotiators to include in the final agreement that both parties clearly and unambiguously mark their mine fields, that both parties commit to refrain from any use of the landmine, and that laying of landmines be considered a violation of a ceasefire or an act of aggression. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/tcbl\\_burma](http://www.icbl.org/news/tcbl_burma)]

In Afghanistan, the ICBL condemned several attacks made on deminers this year and welcomed, in September, the release of 10 members of a kidnapped Afghan demining team and called for the immediate release of another three deminers still in captivity. The 13 men were abducted on 6 September 2007 by unknown gunmen, believed to be Taliban insurgents, as they were driving in the eastern province of Paktia. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/afghanistan\\_kidnapping](http://www.icbl.org/news/afghanistan_kidnapping)]

The ICBL and its members were engaged in dialogue with non-state armed groups in Colombia, the Philippines, Thailand, Georgia, Western Sahara, Somalia, India and Nepal. Research and advocacy was conducted by Landmine Monitor thematic coordinator on NSAs, in cooperation with some relevant country campaigns. The Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines (NCBL), together with Geneva Call, worked to convince all parties in conflict that the peace process was an appropriate forum to address the issue of mine use.

The ICBL also worked with local NGOs in Kashmir to persuade insurgents active in the region to ban the use of antipersonnel mines. Activities included sending letters to all political parties in Kashmir in early 2007 to urge them to support a ban on antipersonnel mines, as well as one field trip in October, which culminated in a declaration by the United Jihad Council (UJC), pledging to renounce the use of these weapons. These activities — described at [http://www.icbl.org/news\\_on\\_front/kasmiroct2007](http://www.icbl.org/news_on_front/kasmiroct2007) — followed a first mission to Indian-administered Kashmir in November 2006, at the invitation of local NGO Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS). Throughout the following year, JKCCS and the ICBL continued to lobby and seek public statements of support for a mine ban from key political parties and opinion makers. In their declaration, the UJC stated that use of antipersonnel mines is equivalent to blind terror and that use of antipersonnel mines is prohibited under Islam. UJC members are thought to have made only limited use of antipersonnel mines in the past.

Lastly, in January, ICBL wrote to Pakistan's president Perwez Musharraf urging him to abandon immediately the proposal to lay landmines along its border with Afghanistan, announced in late December 2006. "Using antipersonnel mines is not the answer to a country's legitimate security problems," said ICBL's Executive Director Sylvie Brigot. In the course of a joint press conference held by the Pakistani and Canadian governments in Islamabad on 9 January, authorities said they might reconsider their proposal after receiving assurances from Canada for technical assistance in monitoring and prevention of unwanted movement of people across the border. In its letter, the ICBL urged Pakistan to look for alternatives to address its security concerns without resorting to antipersonnel mines to avoid joining the ever-dwindling 'club of shame' of antipersonnel mine users.

## **B.2 Universalization Advocacy Missions and Other Initiatives**

*Bahrain and Kuwait, March 2007:* An ICBL delegation conducted an advocacy visit to Bahrain and Kuwait to encourage the two Gulf countries to expedite accession to the Mine

Ban Treaty ahead of the 8th Meeting of States Parties to the treaty, scheduled to take place in Jordan in November 2007. ICBL delegates Simona Beltrami and Ayman Sorour, accompanied by members of the Bahrain Human Rights Society, met with the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdulaziz Mubarak Al-Khalifa, who promised that he would raise the issue of accession with the Ministry of Defence and the Prime Minister's Office, with a view to kick-starting the process for accession. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/bahrain\\_parliament](http://www.icbl.org/news/bahrain_parliament)]

*Syria, 13-15 March 2007:* A regional conference on landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) was held in Damascus, Syria. On this occasion the Arab Network for Research on Landmines and ERW renewed its call for governments in the Middle East and North Africa to ban antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions. It also welcomed the initiative of the Norwegian Government to start the process towards an international ban on clusters Munitions. The conference — the fourth regional conference organized by the network — took place at Damascus University and was attended by more than 65 participants, including from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. Also in attendance were representatives from Handicap International, Geneva Call, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), the Quakers, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Arab League, as well as the Canadian embassy and the media. The opening session was attended by representatives from the Syrian Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Health, and from the Governorate of Quneitra. [<http://www.icbl.org/news/damascus>]

*Cambodia, 12-14 March 2007:* In Asia, the ICBL contributed to a workshop co-organized by Cambodia and Canada in Phnom Penh in March, which provided an opportunity to interact with representatives from Asian States not Parties to the treaty, including China, Laos and Nepal.

*Kazakhstan, March 2007:* In the CIS, ICBL delegates took part in a workshop on mine action as a confidence building measure, co-sponsored by the governments of Canada and Slovenia in Kazakhstan. [[www.icbl.org/news/kzakhreport](http://www.icbl.org/news/kzakhreport)] ICBL delegates also visited Azerbaijan in August in the context of activities related to cluster munitions, and also raised accession to the Mine Ban Treaty with authorities.

*Taiwan, August 2007:* During a visit by ICBL ambassador, Mr. Tun Channareth, and ICBL Advisory Board member, Sister Denise Coghlan, Taiwan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yang Tzu-pao, and separately, the opposition KMT Presidential Candidate party, Mr. Ma Ying-jeou, signed a declaration prepared by representatives of the Taiwan CBL that promises: to support a total ban on the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines; to actively seek international support to facilitate clearance of all domestic landmines within the deadline set by the 2006 Antipersonnel Landmines Regulation Act; and, to support global landmine victim assistance programs.

*India and Nepal, September–October 2007:* Between September and October 2007 the ICBL conducted an advocacy visit to India and Nepal. In India, activities focused on celebrations to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the treaty's signature as a way to rekindle dialogue with the Indian authorities on accession to the MBT. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/india\\_10th\\_anniversary](http://www.icbl.org/news/india_10th_anniversary)] During the three-day mission in Nepal, the delegation met with Hon. Speaker of the Parliament, leaders of various political parties (including CPN/ Maoists), senior officers of the Nepalese Army, as well as members of the National Mine Action Steering and Technical Committees. All of them have expressed a strong commitment to ban antipersonnel landmines and join the Mine Ban Treaty. The delegation also held meetings with the relevant UN agencies. On 3 October, a National Conference on *Human Security and Landmines* —

*Problems & Challenges*, organized by the Nepal Campaign, was inaugurated by Hon. Ram Chandra Yadav, State Minister for General Administration. In addition to the ICBL, the participants included members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations, government and army officials, scholars, civil society, as well as landmine survivors. [[www.icbl.org/news/sept07nepal](http://www.icbl.org/news/sept07nepal)]

*Libya, 23 October 2007:* In a press release on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the ICBL refuted a statement by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi attacking the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and defending the use of landmines as a legitimate means of protection for ‘weak’ countries. “At a time when Libya is taking up its seat at the UN Security Council and looking for a role of increased regional leadership, criticizing a treaty which has clearly succeeded in stemming the humanitarian crisis caused by antipersonnel mines sets a deplorable example,” said Ayman Sorour of the ICBL Management Committee. “Continuing to hang on to unrealistic reasons not to join the Mine Ban Treaty and calling on states to withdraw from it is in clear contrast with the treaty’s humanitarian goals and achievements. The treaty is a success that we need to build on — not destroy — for the sake of humankind,” Sorour added. [[www.icbl.org/news/gaddafi\\_mbt](http://www.icbl.org/news/gaddafi_mbt)]

*Oman, 28 October 2007:* A delegation from the ICBL visited the Sultanate of Oman on 28 October as part of the organization’s efforts to promote adherence to the Mine Ban Treaty. The one-day visit followed a letter sent by ICBL Ambassador and Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams to the country’s monarch, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, in May 2007. ICBL delegates held meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also met with representatives from the Omani media, before moving to Bahrain. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/oman\\_mission\\_oct07](http://www.icbl.org/news/oman_mission_oct07)]

*Bahrain, 1 November 2007:* In Bahrain, the ICBL delegation, in cooperation with the Bahrain Human Rights Society, coordinated a seminar on the Mine Ban Treaty for members of Bahrain’s two houses of Parliament. The seminar entitled *The Mine Ban Treaty: Effective Participation Towards a Mine-Free World* was held in Manama on 1 November, under the auspices of the Parliament’s Speaker, and saw the participation of the ICBL, ICRC, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Bahrain Ministry of Foreign Affairs and one member of the Kuwaiti Parliament.

## **C. Implementation**

The ICBL continues to place the highest importance on the full and timely implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. The focus for 2007 was on mine clearance (Article 5) and victim assistance as the key avenues for achieving the treaty’s humanitarian goals. Work on the disarmament aspects of the treaty also continued, with new concerns about violations of Article 1 (the ‘ban’), upcoming stockpile destruction deadlines, and the lack of progress on national implementation measures (Article 9).

Implementation efforts involve the collaboration of all ICBL components — from staff, to Landmine Monitor (LM) research coordinators, to the member organizations that provide critical input from the field. They also take place at all levels — from multilateral and bilateral meetings in Geneva, to regional conferences, to workshops and meetings at the national level. This year the ICBL continued to emphasize regional and national level activities, including field missions, treaty implementation workshops, and active participation in other regional and national events.

During the reporting period, the ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director also actively participated in the Geneva-based intersessional Work Programme, which is the system set up by States Parties to allow for continuous discussions and activities on the Mine Ban Treaty throughout the year. In addition to the week-long ISC meetings (*described in Section A*), the ICBL participated in monthly meetings of the Coordinating Committee (CC), which brings together the Standing Committee Co-Chairs, Co-Rapporteurs, Chairs of the Contact Groups and the Sponsorship Group coordinator. During these meetings, she provided input into plans for the intersessional meetings and the 8MSP, updating participants on ICBL activities and priorities for these meetings.

In addition to these regular meetings, the Treaty Implementation Director met frequently with the Implementation Support Unit Manager, ICRC, ICBL member organizations based in Geneva, Standing Committee Co-Chairs, and other government representatives about the full and timely implementation of the Ottawa Convention. Prior to the 8MSP in Jordan, the Treaty Implementation Director sent letters to States Parties to communicate the ICBL's implementation policy priorities. The letters were tailored to reflect each state's remaining treaty obligations and the ICBL's special concerns relative to their treaty implementation.

### **C.1 Article 5 (Mine Clearance)**

The emphasis in 2007 was on encouraging mine-affected States Parties to be more diligent and effective in the implementation of Article 5, plus continuing to ensure that the extension request process would be taken seriously by all states. ICBL staff, LM research coordinators, and mine action operators met on several occasions on the margins of other meetings to discuss the ICBL's policies on land release, linking mine action and development, and extension requests. The ICBL made strong statements at the ISC meetings and the 8MSP about the fact that four states — France, Niger, United Kingdom, and Venezuela — had not engaged in any mine clearance to date (though France finally started operations in October 2007). Of special concern was Venezuela, which stated at the ISC meetings and via its Article 7 report that its mined areas were still serving a military purpose and could not be cleared until replacement security systems were found. We pointed out at those meetings, plus in a meeting with the Ambassador in Geneva, through a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in a regional landmine meeting in Chile, that a delay in clearance for this reason meant that Venezuela was essentially violating Article 1's prohibition on landmine use.

The ICBL was also active in the discussions about using area reduction and cancellation to improve the efficiency of mine action. After an internal meeting in March 2007, the ICBL developed guiding principles for land release through these techniques. The paper emphasized their utility for properly identifying mined areas while stressing vigilance to ensure no mines are present in such areas. The principles also emphasized the involvement of local communities, leaders and end-users of the land to ensure their confidence in the mine action operators' practices. The principles were issued at the ISC meetings in April 2007 and presented again orally at the 8MSP during an informal afternoon session on land release (available at [http://www.icbl.org/treaty/mine\\_action/landrelease](http://www.icbl.org/treaty/mine_action/landrelease)). ICBL staff and member organizations also participated in a meeting on this subject at the GICHD, reminding of the need to ensure respect for the Mine Ban Convention while providing advice on land release techniques. The ICBL's guidelines were taken into account in the GICHD's publication on land release issued at the 8MSP.

The ICBL also looked at the question of linking mine action and development (LMAD) during 2007, working in partnership with GICHD staff working on the issue, the LMAD Contact Group Chair and ICBL member organizations to ensure that the promise behind the

LMAD concept ultimately has a positive impact for mine-affected states. The ICBL has expressed its concern about the manner in which mainstreaming was carried out by the European Commission (EC), one of the biggest mine action donors, and spent much energy in 2007 encouraging the EC to rectify these problems. ICBL staff met several times with EC representatives in Geneva and visited Brussels to meet with EC and European Union (EU) officials, encouraging them to reinstate a specific budget line for mine action and to recreate a high-level central position to oversee the distribution of the mainstreamed budgets. The ICBL successfully promoted language to this effect in the 2007 European Parliament Resolution.

On the issue of extension requests, the same group of ICBL, LM and member organization representatives elaborated a strategy for ensuring that the request process was taken seriously by requesting and reviewing states alike. In statements at the ISC and CC meetings, 8MSP, and in meetings with the Mine Clearance Co-Chairs, the ICBL continued to insist on a process that would not only result in a detailed analysis of states' achievements to date, but would also produce a recommendation for the number of years extension (which might be different from the one requested in certain cases), and for benchmarks for progress during this period for the states that have shown the least commitment to the deadline. The ICBL also produced a set of recommended criteria for the review of extension requests that were issued at the April ISC meetings. The goal was to lay out at an early stage the ICBL's expectations for the review of requests, as mine-affected states began to consider developing them.

In early 2008, the ICBL provided input to Canada's paper on the extension request process, again recommending a transparent process that would take advantage of the expertise of the ICBL and its member mine clearance organizations in assessing the requests. At a presentation to the Coordinating Committee during a retreat in February 2008, the ICBL argued that the group of states tasked with analysing the extension requests needed to have some 'teeth' to sanction those states that had done the least on mine clearance since ratification, and the best way to do so would be to recommend shorter extension periods than requested and milestones for activities during this time.

## **C.2 Survivor Assistance**

The ICBL has seen through its experience in the field and through advocacy activities that there are wide gaps in the implementation of victim assistance, particularly in the most affected countries. When projects and programs exist, many of them still have accessibility issues, sustainability is dubious, and not all components of victim assistance are equally available. For this reason, the ICBL and its Working Group on Victim Assistance drafted in early 2007 a set of guiding principles on VA. The principles are not new, but more of a compilation of guidelines that have been cited in various documents, including the Mine Ban Treaty and the Nairobi Action Plan. The point of developing them is to remind all actors working on VA that what matters is not just the development and implementation of goals, but how those goals are developed and whether they are designed in a way to benefit all survivors. They were presented at the 2007 Intersessional Standing Committee meetings by survivors and distributed at the meeting and to the ICBL network. Survivors and other ICBL VA experts also fed ideas directly to national VA experts during a parallel program of meetings at to the ISC meetings and the 8MSP

Repeated consultations with the Landmine Monitor VA team, the current WGVA Co-Chairs, the International Support Unit's VA specialist, and member organizations all pointed to the need to ramp up ICBL advocacy in 2008 and 2009 on VA in order to see real results by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference. The group worked in late 2007 and early 2008 to develop priority areas of work — such as data collection, reporting and resource mobilization — all intended

to improve national capacity to provide victim assistance over the long term. The ICBL plans to bring on another staff person to help with VA advocacy, among other implementation priorities.

### **C.3 Disarmament Obligations**

This year, the ICBL kept up its usual pressure on States Parties to make known their policies on Article 1, 2 and 3, fill out their Article 7 reports fully, accurately and in a timely manner, and create national implementation measures. The ICBL continued to stress the need for transparency on mines kept under Article 3 of the treaty, reminding States Parties to use the revised Form D to report on past and planned use of these mines. A Landmine Monitor factsheet issued in 2007 and interventions at the ISC meetings and 8MSP highlighted the ICBL's concerns about possible abuse of this exception since many states were keeping mines year after year without seemingly using them for the permitted purposes.

The ICBL expressed its concern in all venues about allegations by the UN Monitoring Group of transfers of antipersonnel mines to Somalia from three States Parties — Eritrea, Ethiopia and Yemen — strongly encouraging States Parties to take action in this case and to operationalize the compliance mechanisms of the treaty under Article 8 to be prepared to act if other cases should arise. As noted above, the ICBL reacted strongly to admissions from Venezuela that they were taking military advantage of their minefields along the border with Colombia, noting that the prohibition on 'use' under Article 1 also applies to taking advantage of existing minefields and not only the laying of new ones.

During the reporting period, the ICBL also paid close attention to compliance with Article 4 (stockpile destruction), particularly with states reaching their deadline during 2007 and 2008. The ICBL consulted closely with Afghanistan after it missed its 1 March 2007 deadline to ensure that all possible efforts were made to destroy the small amount of remaining mines and to report on their progress. The ICBL also focused in 2007 on the need for States Parties to report on and destroy any previously unknown stockpiles that are discovered after their destruction deadline or after they report completion of Article 4 obligations. The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director worked closely with the Stockpile Destruction Co-Chairs to emphasize the importance of the issue and to make changes to the annual transparency report Forms B and G to encourage greater reporting on the matter.

The ICBL looked closely at the problem of the destruction of PFM mines in Belarus and Ukraine because of the special financial and technical challenges the two countries have faced in ensuring their on-time destruction. After the EC tender collapsed in Belarus in late 2006, the ICBL encouraged the EC to renew its funding and all concerned parties to expedite the process so that Belarus would not miss its 1 March 2008 deadline by too long a period. In order to remedy the lack of information surrounding the process of destruction of PFM mines in Ukraine, the ICBL also undertook a mission to Kiev in June 2007 (*see C.4 below*).

Regarding Article 9, the provision for National Implementation Measures, the ICBL decided in 2007 to make this a higher priority since only 53 states parties have enacted new domestic laws to implement the treaty, and an additional 37 states say there is no need for new legislation. The ICBL therefore organized a workshop in March 2007 in Geneva and a series of bilateral meetings in July to encourage states to bring this to the top of their legislative agendas. The meetings included the participation of the ICRC, which has specialized knowledge on international humanitarian law implementation.

## C.4 Implementation Advocacy Missions, Workshops and Events

As one way to increase awareness and activity surrounding implementation, the ICBL participated actively in regional seminars on the convention, organized a series of national implementation workshops, and conducted missions to States Parties, as follows:

*Algeria, 18-19 January 2007:* The ICBL actively participated in a Victim Assistance Training Workshop organized in Algiers by the Algerian Ministry of National Solidarity and Handicap International (HI) Algeria. The ICBL was represented by Ayman Sorour, member of the ICBL Management Committee and head of the Egyptian NGO, Protection. Other participants included GICHD, HI France, HI Belgium, the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Follow the Implementation of the MBT and representatives of seven local organizations. The working part of the meeting was led off by a presentation by the ICBL that showed how the Mine Ban Treaty and Nairobi Action Plan applied to the Algerian situation. The ICBL highlighted the large number of mines that Algeria has chosen to retain under Article 3 of the treaty, and asked that this number be reconsidered. The presentation also highlighted Algeria's mine clearance deadline in April 2012. [<http://www.icbl.org/news/vaalgeria>]

*Yemen, 3 February 2007:* In collaboration with the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center, the ICBL organized a one-day workshop on 3 February, in Sana'a, Yemen, to examine mine clearance, risk education and victim assistance related to the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. The aim of the meeting was to enhance understanding about the provisions of the treaty among all parties working on mine action and victim assistance in Yemen, as well as to measure progress and discuss remaining challenges in the treaty's implementation. Some of the challenges identified were clearing areas with shifting dunes and ensuring the inclusion of survivors in VA policy and development plans to ensure the services met their needs. [<http://www.icbl.org/news/yemenpr>]

*Tajikistan, 30 March 2007:* The ICBL and Tajikistan Mine Action Center (TMAC) jointly held a workshop on the progress made and remaining challenges in the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty on 30 March. The key finding of the day was that Tajikistan has taken great strides towards fulfilling its obligations under the treaty, but has been hampered by the difficulty of acquiring funds from other States Parties. The failure of other states to provide assistance under Article 6.3 of the treaty has meant that mine clearance is proceeding much more slowly than expected and the well-developed victim assistance strategy is not being carried out. [<http://www.icbl.org/news/tajikpr>]

*Serbia, 16 May 2007:* ICBL participated in a ceremony marking the end of the stockpile destruction programs in both Serbia and Montenegro. Serbia's deadline under the Mine Ban Treaty to destroy all stockpiles of antipersonnel mines was 1 March 2008, and Montenegro's is 1 April 2011. The stockpile destruction project was carried by the Serbian Ministry of Defense and NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA), and was supported by several countries through NATO, with the lead taken by Canada and Austria. The ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director, Tamar Gabelnick, made a statement congratulating Serbia for finishing the destruction of a relatively large stockpile almost a year before its deadline. The meeting also enabled her to consult with NAMSA about ways to resolve the problem of PFM destruction in Belarus and Ukraine. [<http://www.icbl.org/news/serbiasd>]

*Ukraine, 6-8 June 2007:* The ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director conducted a mission to Ukraine in June 2007, along with Landmine Monitor researchers from Belarus and Russia. The goal was to interview the actors involved in Ukraine's PFM stockpile destruction activities to gain a greater understanding of why the EC contract for this work was cancelled

after a year, and to encourage the Government of Ukraine to find another technical and financial solution quickly. With six million chemical-filled PFM mines to destroy by 2010, there is little time to waste. The EC representative blamed Ukraine for the collapse, citing their failure to cooperate on all levels. Ukraine in turn blamed the selected company, saying it lacked the technical knowledge to do the work properly.

*Greece, 3 December 2007:* The ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director attended a celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mine Ban Convention organized by the Greek Campaign to Ban Landmines on 3 December in Athens. The main advocacy messages communicated to the audience were the need for Greece to move quickly to destroy its 1.5 million mine stockpile by its deadline of 1 March 2008; to report on and destroy *all* known mined areas after a recent survey in northwest Greece showed a number of undeclared suspected hazardous areas; and to provide ongoing medical, economic and legal assistance for the survivors in Greece, most of whom were immigrants that crossed the border through the minefield along Greece's border with Turkey.

*Regional Seminars on the Ottawa Convention in Chile, Tunisia and Indonesia:* The ICBL actively participated in a number of regional seminars on the Ottawa Convention organized by partner countries or organizations. During the reporting period, the ICBL Treaty Implementation Director went to Santiago, Tunis, and Bali for workshops that focused on treaty implementation within Latin America, the Maghreb, and Southeast Asia, respectively. The conferences offered invaluable opportunities to publicly communicate some of the key messages and concerns highlighted above. The informal discussions during the conferences also allowed her to building relationships with government officials from the capital cities, a very useful way to improve the effectiveness of ICBL advocacy.

*Ottawa Convention Implementation and Universalization Workshop, Bali, 25-27 February 2008:* See B.2 above.

## **D. Enhancing ICBL's Capacity to Advocate at National Level**

During the reporting period, the ICBL intensified its efforts to build the capacity and skills of the ICBL campaigners to strengthen national advocacy on implementation and universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty, as well as on the new issue for the network — the cluster munitions ban process.

### **D.1 Capacity Building Training and Workshops**

The ICBL trainings and workshops in 2007, organized at regional and international levels, served the following main purposes: to share information and discuss key issues and messages on implementation and universalization of the Convention and on the cluster munitions issue; to exchange experience, brainstorm and draft national advocacy strategies and plans on treaty-related work and the cluster munitions ban process; to enhance contacts and collaboration within the ICBL network.

- *"Ensuring further success: Campaign and Research Training Meeting", Aden, Yemen, 4-7 February 2007*

This was a major global ICBL/LM training and planning meeting for 2007. The agenda included training workshops on research and advocacy on Article 5 and victim assistance, as well as workshops on cluster munitions. There were also a few field visits organized in

collaboration with the National Mine Action Committee and Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC). Meeting objectives included: to review issues and messages on implementation and universalization after the 7MSP, with a view to drafting the 2007-2009 strategy; to draft advocacy plans for 2007-2009; to conduct one on one meetings between ICBL staff / LM thematic coordinators and campaigners; to strengthen advocacy and research skills through specific training according to needs. Seventy participants attended the meeting: representatives of targeted national campaigns (essentially coming from affected countries for advocacy purposes, and also from States not Party for research purposes); key resource persons on mine action and victim assistance; Landmine Monitor editorial team members involved in advocacy; ICBL staff and Advisory Board; ICBL Ambassadors.

- *“Ensuring further success on victim assistance by sharing good practices for VA advocacy”, Geneva, Switzerland, 24 April 2007*

A one-day workshop on advocacy on victim assistance was held at the Intersessional Standing Committee meetings in Geneva, April 2007. The aim of the workshop was to define specific advocacy goals for victim assistance for 2007–2009, and identify techniques and tools to achieve them, inspired by the experiences of other campaigners. The workshop brought together close to 20 campaigners who have demonstrated an effective and reproducible success in various fields of VA. Specifically, participants were asked to explain: the challenges they have faced when advocating for victim assistance; how they set about to formulate their advocacy strategies; who and what they worked with; and how they sustained the efforts and products of their plans. The emphasis was on sharing local examples and experiences, including innovative and traditional advocacy approaches, and identifying good practices on VA advocacy that could be replicated.

- *“A Success in Progress” Campaign Meeting, Amman, Jordan, 23 November 2007*

Following the 8MSP, the ICBL held a half-day campaigning meeting for close to 150 ICBL members from around the world who had participated in the MSP. The main purposes of the meeting were: to provide campaigners with an overview of ICBL Management Committee and team’s views and objectives on Treaty implementation and universalization, as well as on the cluster munitions process; to brainstorm, review and define specific objectives for the next two years (until the 2009 Second Review Conference); to assess ICBL capacity and develop the basis for regional plans of action on specific treaty issues and the cluster munitions ban process. During regional working groups session, campaigners attempted to assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) for their advocacy on universalization and ban issues, Article 5, VA and the cluster munitions issue, and then to outline regional objectives and plans of action to meet those objectives. These regional analysis and plans of actions are being incorporated into a global ICBL advocacy strategy and plan of action in the run-up to the Second Review Conference of the Convention.

- *Training and workshops on cluster munitions*

The ICBL staff, often jointly with the CMC staff, organized training on campaigning and advocacy on cluster munitions for national campaigners present at all international and regional conferences and meetings during the year. *See the cluster munitions section below for more details.*

## **D.2 Messages Dissemination**

The ICBL staff continued to elaborate and disseminate messages, as well as advocacy tools and lessons learned on all issues related to the implementation and universalization of the Convention among ICBL members. Parallel to this, the ICBL elaborated and disseminated messages, as well as advocacy and campaigning tools, related to cluster munitions and the ban process. In its communications, the ICBL has linked the two issues and promoted within its network an integrated advocacy approach that ties them together. Messages and tools disseminated during the reporting period included:

- Calls to Action around main Convention-related events, such as 1 March, ISC meeting, MSP and 3-4 December;
- Calls to Action around major events related to the cluster munitions campaign and ban process, such as international and regional conferences, global days of action and convention signature campaign;
- Biannual update and circulation of the ICBL Policy Booklet (first edited during the 6MSP, and then updated for subsequent ISCs and MSPs);
- Position papers to help campaigners understand and spread ICBL positions and messages.

## **D.3 Individual Support to National Campaigns**

### *One-on-one meetings and follow-up with staff and national campaigns*

The ICBL staff and national campaigns regularly held one-on-one meetings to encourage, discuss and elaborate national advocacy plans and strategies. In 2007, these were held during ISC, MSP, and cluster munitions meetings, as well as at ICBL global (Yemen) and regional meetings (Phnom Penh), or by email. The majority of the advocacy missions mentioned in Sections B and C were prepared and conducted in close relationship with the relevant national campaigns or individual ICBL members. During these missions, ICBL staff met with national campaigns to discuss and further elaborate on their planned activities. In countries where there is not an existing national campaign, staff has tried to identify active NGOs and to follow up with them after each visit, so as to increase their involvement in the ICBL

### *Support extended to target national campaigns*

In 2007 and first quarter of 2008, the ICBL provided technical, organizational and financial assistance to target national campaigns for implementation of their advocacy plans and projects. On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention, and 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Campaign, the ICBL launched the “10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Support Program for National Campaigns: A Success in Progress”. The purpose of the program was to enable national campaigns to hold events marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the treaty, and to support national advocacy programs aimed at ensuring further progress in implementation or universalization of the treaty.

While the primary focus was on advocacy activities aimed at engaging national authorities on universalization and implementation issues of the Convention, campaigns were also encouraged to include in their activities a national launch of the *Landmine Monitor Report 2007*, as well as reference to and key messages of the cluster munitions ban process. A total of 19 campaigns have been supported in this scheme, including Azerbaijan, Brazil, Cambodia,

Colombia, DR Congo, Greece, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Zambia and a regional one from Southeast Asia.

## **E. ICBL Work on Cluster Munitions**

Since the beginning of 2007, the ICBL has been extensively engaged in the global effort to prohibit cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, by joining the Steering Committee of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) in February 2007. This marked the first time that the ICBL has added substantial work to its agenda on an issue other than antipersonnel mines. This occurred at a critical time for the treaty — i.e., two years before the Second Review Conference and mine clearance deadline for many states. The main reasons for this decision were: cluster munitions indiscriminately cover large areas and inevitably end up leaving behind large numbers of what are essentially antipersonnel mines; many ICBL organizations are already working extensively on clusters; and, the world is at a crucial point for trying to address the cluster munition problem. The ICBL felt it could and should make a real difference in a closely related humanitarian issue.

While the ICBL does not envision that cluster munitions will become the main focus of its work, it has witnessed that integrating cluster munitions in the Campaign's work on landmines can invigorate some ICBL member activities and create new opportunities that would benefit progress on both fronts. The ICBL strongly believes that both issues can and should be addressed in parallel and dealt with together in our advocacy work.

In 2007 and first quarter of 2008, the ICBL contributed to the cluster munitions ban process mainly by:

- Participation in and contribution to the main conferences of the process;
- Strengthening support for the process at regional fora;
- Capacity building on cluster munitions among the ICBL network;
- Advocacy and outreach work in Geneva;
- Contribution to the treaty text development
- Generation of media attention

### **E.1 Major Conferences of the Process**

The ICBL staff, members of the Management Committee, ambassadors and campaigners participated in and contributed extensively to all global conferences and the majority of the regional conferences of the cluster munitions ban process — Oslo, Lima, Brussels, Belgrade, Vienna and Wellington — providing input to the CMC documents and interventions, lobbying and campaigning efforts, media work and training activities.

*Oslo, Norway, 22-23 February 2007:* The ICBL participated in and contributed to the success of the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions in late February, that launched an international process to achieve a legally-binding instrument banning cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm by 2008. Three ICBL staff and several campaigners participated as part of the CMC delegation. Besides intensive advocacy and lobbying efforts, ICBL staff was involved in conducting training on advocacy and lobbying on cluster munitions and led the media work around the conference. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/cmc\\_pr](http://www.icbl.org/news/cmc_pr)]

*Lima, Peru, 20-25 May 2007:* The Lima Conference on Cluster Munitions was the second international conference of the process. The ICBL staff was significantly engaged in

preparations for the meeting, by: mobilizing campaigning and advocacy at national levels to bring representatives of invited states to Lima; contributing to the development of CMC documents; conducting training for campaigners on lobbying, jointly with the CMC staff; and, helping with coordination of the civil society presence at the conference (including preparation of daily morning briefings, the civil society forum prior to the conference, lobbying efforts during the conference, delivering a statement on transparency and compliance on behalf of the CMC, and coordinating all the media work around the conference). The ICBL Ambassador, Jody Williams, contributed greatly by presenting a letter on behalf of the Nobel Women's Initiative, delivering interventions, and doing extensive media work. [[http://www.icbl.org/news\\_on\\_front/limafinalpr](http://www.icbl.org/news_on_front/limafinalpr)]

*Belgrade, Serbia, 3-4 October 2007:* The Belgrade Conference of States Affected by Cluster Munitions gathered states that have been directly affected by the use of cluster munitions. The ICBL staff was significantly engaged in preparations for the meeting by: mobilizing campaigning and advocacy at national levels to bring representatives of invited states to Belgrade, as well campaigners from these countries; contributing to the development of CMC documents; conducting training for campaigners on lobbying, jointly with the CMC staff; and, helping to coordinate the civil society presence at the conference (including preparation of daily morning briefings, the civil society forum prior to the conference, lobbying efforts during the conference, delivering a statement on international cooperation and assistance on behalf of the CMC, and coordinating all the media work around the conference). Also, the ICBL Ambassador, Margaret Arech Orech, played a significant role advocating as a survivor for a new treaty, and being much involved in the media work, especially during the closing press conference. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/belgrade\\_conference](http://www.icbl.org/news/belgrade_conference)]

*Vienna, Austria, 5-7 December 2007:* The Vienna Conference on Cluster Munitions was the third major international conference of the 'Oslo Process' on cluster munitions; 138 states attended. The ICBL staff was significantly engaged in meeting preparations: mobilizing campaigning and advocacy at national levels to bring representatives of invited states to Vienna and MPs from national parliaments to the Parliamentarian Forum hosted by the Austrian Government; contributing to the development of CMC documents; and, helping to coordinate the civil society presence at the conference, including lobbying efforts during the conference, and delivering a statement on transparency and compliance. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/vienna\\_cmc](http://www.icbl.org/news/vienna_cmc)]

*Wellington, New Zealand, 18-22 February 2008:* The Wellington Conference on Cluster Munitions was the fourth international conference of the process aimed at negotiating a treaty banning cluster munitions. The ICBL staff was significantly engaged in meeting preparations: mobilizing campaigning and advocacy at national level to bring representatives of invited states to Wellington; contributing to the development of CMC documents; conducting practical training and simulations on lobbying for the Ban Advocates (group of cluster munitions survivors); and, helping to coordinate the civil society presence at the conference (including preparation of the orientation session, daily morning briefings, lobbying efforts during the conference, outreach activities outside of the conference room, and delivering a statement on transparency and compliance on behalf of the CMC). Also, the ICBL Ambassador, Jody Williams, was intensively engaged in outreach and media work throughout the conference. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/wellington\\_final](http://www.icbl.org/news/wellington_final)]

## **E.2 Strengthening Support for the Process at Regional Fora**

To ensure success of the process on cluster munitions, it has been crucial to build and maintain strong global momentum, including getting regions and countries directly concerned

with cluster munitions on board (affected, stockpilers, producers, etc.). The Ottawa process proved the regional approach very effective on disarmament issues. Therefore, the ICBL engaged in 2007 in mobilizing its network and using its experience to work jointly with the CMC to organize or contribute to a series of regional events targeting both states and NGOs.

- *Regional Forum on Cluster Munitions in Southeast Asia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 14-15 March 2007*

The ICBL, together with the Cambodian CBL, organized the first *Regional Forum on Cluster Munitions in Southeast Asia*. The event aimed at raising awareness on the impact of cluster munitions in this region and globally, and at securing regional support for the new international process aimed at achieving a legally binding instrument on cluster munitions. The forum was facilitated by an ICBL MC member, Diplomatic Adviser, staff and campaigners, and was attended by representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Afghanistan, Jordan, Japan, Austria, Canada, Germany and Norway, as well as UN agencies, the ICRC and NGOs from the region. As a result, the Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister formally announced the country's support for the process launched in Oslo, and Lao PDR and Thailand joined the process during the next international conference in Lima. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/cluster\\_forum\\_pp](http://www.icbl.org/news/cluster_forum_pp)]

- *African Union – European Union Seminar on Security Dialogue: Towards a Common Agenda for De-mining and Disarmament, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 18-20 April 2007*

The AU and EU held a joint seminar on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mine-Ban Treaty aimed at addressing a number of disarmament issues in Africa. The ICBL Advocacy and Campaigning Officer and Advisory Board member participated in the seminar, delivered opening remarks and took part in the discussions, raising awareness on the impact of cluster munitions in Africa and on the international ban process, as well as highlighting outstanding challenges on universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Convention in Africa.

- *SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government Lusaka, Zambia, 10-18 August 2007*

The Zambian CBL, together with the ICBL and CMC, advocated for inclusion of the cluster munitions issue as an agenda item of the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, which took place in Zambia in August 2007. In the run-up to the Summit, all SADC member countries received advocacy letters and information about the scope of the problem in the SADC region and across Africa, and about the Oslo Process. As a result, the issue was mentioned in the agenda (briefly), and much more widely in national media. Malawi joined the process in response to this advocacy action.

- *ASEAN People's Assembly, Manila, Philippines, 23-26 October 2007*

The Philippine CBL, together with Non-Violence International SEA, organized a side event on cluster munitions and the Oslo process at the ASEAN People's Assembly that gathered government and civil society representatives from all the ASEAN member states.

- *“Cluster Bombs — Challenges and Solutions”, Cairo, Egypt, 10 November 2007*

Protection, member of the ICBL Management Committee, together with the Federation of Arab Journalists and ICBL, held a regional seminar for Arab League members, entitled *“Cluster Bombs — Challenges and Solutions”*. The main purpose of the seminar was to raise awareness of the regional and global impact of cluster munitions and to inform the Arab

League Secretariat and members about the Oslo process, as well as to generate media attention and public awareness. The one-day event gathered representatives from the Arab League Secretariat, Egypt, the missions of Libya, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, ICRC, UNDP, AL-Ahram Centre for Strategic and Political Studies, as well as numerous media. As a result, the Arab League Secretariat has been seeking ways to engage its members more widely in the process, and several new countries from the region joined the process by the Vienna conference. The event also generated extensive media coverage in Egypt and in the region.

### **E.3 Capacity Building of National Campaigns on Cluster Munitions**

In 2007, the cluster munitions issue was included in all ICBL capacity building events and tools. The ICBL has been working with the CMC to develop and strengthen the network of NGOs working on cluster munitions. The advocacy officers of both campaigns reviewed together the advocacy objectives and strategy on a country by country basis, to determine objectives and related strategy and advocacy efforts for the CMC in those countries. At the same time, the ICBL staff has been working with national campaigns to integrate this issue in their national advocacy plans, along with activities related to the Mine Ban Convention.

#### **Training and workshops**

Workshops and training sessions on cluster munitions have been organized by the ICBL staff, often jointly with the CMC, for campaigners at all major conferences of the Oslo Process (*please see the previous section*). As well, the ICBL together with national campaigns organized additional regional workshops on cluster munitions.

- *Regional Campaigning Workshop on Cluster Munitions for CIS, Baku, Azerbaijan, 23-24 August 2007*

The workshop was organized by ICBL, in co-operation with the Azerbaijan CBL, and brought together ICBL campaigners from six CIS countries: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Turkey. The aims of the workshop were to present and discuss core issues of the cluster munitions process, exchange information on cluster munitions existing in the region, as well as to brainstorm and develop a regional plan of action to bring the CIS countries closer to the Oslo process. As a result, three campaigners have stepped up their research and campaigning efforts on cluster munitions, and Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Turkey joined the process at the next international conference.

#### **Messages on cluster munitions**

Since 2007, the ICBL staff has been integrating cluster munitions-related messages in all our communication efforts and dissemination tools, such as the Policy Booklet used by campaigners for national advocacy and during major landmines or cluster munitions conferences, action alerts, press releases, etc.

#### **Individual support for target national campaigns**

In 2007, the ICBL provided a number of national campaigns with financial support aimed, among other things, at raising awareness on the cluster munitions issue and advocating for the new cluster munitions ban treaty. (*See section D for more details.*)

## E.4 Advocacy and Outreach in Geneva

Having a base in Geneva and close relationships with the diplomatic missions and the UN, the ICBL naturally engaged in advocacy and outreach on cluster munitions. In this respect, the ICBL staff and Advocacy Advisor (since the beginning of 2008) engaged regularly with diplomatic missions in Geneva on cluster munitions, with a priority given to: countries that not yet indicated their support for the Oslo process; affected countries in order to strengthen their support and substantive participation in the Oslo Process; engaging Geneva-based representatives of the core group of countries leading the Oslo Process with regard to the Wellington and Dublin conferences; as well as, following developments at the CCW. The ICBL staff has also participated in and contributed to briefings and events on cluster munitions held in Geneva, aimed at raising awareness and advancing the cluster munitions dialog and process.

- *“Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Cluster Munitions”, Geneva, 9 October 2007*

The [Geneva Forum](#) and the ICBL co-organized a forum in October in Geneva, entitled “Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Cluster Munitions.” The event sought to inform states that were outside of, or new to, the [Oslo Process on cluster munitions](#) about the extent of the problem, the political activities that have occurred to date to address the problem, and the plans in place for developing a new treaty on cluster munitions. Speakers included representatives of three affected states — Lebanon, Serbia, and Uganda — as well as some of the leading experts on cluster munitions. The audience included representatives of the Geneva Missions to the United Nations from over 20 states, plus representatives from UN agencies and civil society in Geneva.

Cluster Munition Coalition Coordinator, Thomas Nash, provided participants with a thorough background on cluster munitions, including for what military purposes they were originally designed, how they have been used in past conflicts, and the potential threat from states’ stockpiles around the world. Testimony from affected states (Ambassador Slobodan Vukevic from the Serbian Mission to the UN, Ambassador Cissy Taliwaku from the Ugandan Mission to the UN and Mr. Ahmed Arafa from the Lebanese Mission to the UN), helped bring to life the problems their countries face in supporting survivors and cleaning up the enormous number of duds left behind. [<http://www.icbl.org/news/genevabriefing>]

## E.5 Treaty Text Development Work

The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director has been contributing to the development of the new treaty text, by taking part in discussions and preparing commentaries and language suggestions. The ICBL experience in dealing on a daily basis with the implementation of the MBT has been key in ensuring the cluster munitions treaty is comprehensive, operational, pragmatic and improved over the Mine Ban Treaty (based on what was negotiated 10 years ago and implementation over the past eight years).

## E.6 Generating Media Attention

The ICBL has longstanding experience in carrying out successful media work around international disarmament processes and using it as a tool for advocacy. Since generating media attention is one of the key elements needed to keep the pressure growing for a cluster

munitions treaty, the ICBL Advocacy Director has carried out major media work for the CMC around major events of the process. Building on years of experience working with media in the landmines campaign, she has developed and successfully ran media strategies for the three conferences in Oslo, Lima and Belgrade, and has contributed to the other ones.

## **E.7 General Support to the CMC**

By joining the Steering Committee of the CMC, the ICBL committed itself to contribute to the development of the work of the Coalition, its strategy and actions, and to the complementarity of all forces to enhance the cluster munitions ban process.

## **F. Crosscutting Advocacy Tools**

In 2007, the ICBL continued to use and develop communication tools to facilitate information exchanges within the campaign, including the improvement of its newsletter, a fact sheet, an updated Messages Booklet for campaigners, and finally, the production of a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special brochure and photo exhibition which was presented in Jordan during the 8MSP.

### **F.1 Printed Materials**

#### **Message Booklet**

In 2007, the Treaty Implementation Director updated the “ICBL Messages Booklet for Campaigners” to increase campaigners’ capacity to lobby governments. The 16-page guide provided a short description of the main policy issues ICBL works on (the key treaty articles, plus universalization), messages to communicate to governments, and the relevant target countries for each topic. The ICBL messages at the 8MSP were clearly outlined in the booklet: provide real progress in survivor assistance; finish mine clearance within deadlines; and respect all the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty. In addition to providing key messages, the booklet also served as a mini-reference guide, providing information on the States Parties’ treaty deadlines, the list of 24 states with high numbers of mine victims, states keeping large numbers of mines under Article 3, high priority targets for universalization, etc. The booklet responded to previous requests from campaigners for help in identifying the key points to make with governments during international meetings.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brochure**

For the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, which is also the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the ICBL, we wanted to find a fine way to illustrate what the Campaign is and how it has functioned, what we have collectively achieved, and our current goals and objectives. We did so by letting campaigners speak, leading figures of the ICBL, as well as some of our key partners, in a brochure that also presented 10 years of achievements related to our advocacy on the Treaty and to the empowerment of civil society in the countries where ICBL is present. The brochure was also meant to show the human faces behind the ICBL and to value our members’ work. It was distributed during the 8MSP in Jordan, as well as in Canada during the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the treaty signing in December, and was very well received. [<http://www.icbl.org/content/download/27632/461719/file/icbl+brochure.pdf> ]

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Exhibition**

In addition to the anniversary brochure, the ICBL prepared a photo exhibition, unveiled at the 8MSP in Jordan, then used in Ottawa for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The idea was to reflect the history of the campaign through photos by John Rodsted, who has been following the Campaign since the early days, up to the ‘turning point’ of the Nobel Prize and treaty signing. In a second part, we highlighted ongoing work to make the treaty's words a reality, through a selection of photos from other renowned photographers (e.g., Sean Sutton, Tim Grant), and members of the Campaign to stress the ICBL's diversity, as well as highlight different aspects of the issue. The photo exhibition is available at: <http://www.icbl.org/treaty/10thanniversary/visualres/folder>.

### **Advocacy Brochures**

Due to lack of time, and priorities given to activities described above, we have not been able to finalize the two brochures described in the proposal. The ICBL hopes that the work done in 2007 and stronger engagement of our campaigners will allow for them to be produced in 2008. The brochure on advocacy on survivor assistance could potentially be one outcome of a workshop planned on this issue during the Standing Committee meetings of June 2008.

### **Positions papers on Article 5, Article 5 fact sheets and VA guiding principles.**

*See Section C on Implementation.*

## **F.2 Online Communication**

The ICBL is in the process of updating and enhancing the ICBL website to make it an even better tool for our campaign, and meet the needs of our users. A new company will be contracted in early 2008 for the development of a new website providing more reliable and up-to-date information on the landmine problem and possible solutions for a variety of audiences. This will include more friendly tools showcasing the work of the ICBL and its members worldwide, for the benefit of campaigners, the media, donors, governments and the general public. The ICBL website is currently being used by campaigners to download tools and resources to support their advocacy activities. It also provides a forum for: campaigners to share and compare experiences; motivating individuals to get involved in the campaign; and, channelling private donations.

### **Calls for Action**

Generally, calls for action are issued occasionally to inform all the campaigners of important developments and to encourage them to take action on certain issues. They can be found at: <http://www.icbl.org/action/alerts>.

On 5 November 2007, campaigners around the world were asked to call on their government to attend the Vienna Conference on Cluster Munitions in December, to adopt immediate national moratoria on the use, trade and production of cluster munitions, and to participate in diplomatic discussions on the text of a new international ban treaty. See a list of ‘action’ events organized at [http://www.icbl.org/news/5\\_nov\\_list\\_of\\_events](http://www.icbl.org/news/5_nov_list_of_events).

## **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Section**

This year, ahead of the 8MSP and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the ICBL called on its membership to ensure that the success of the Mine Ban Treaty was duly celebrated, but that action continued to promote further progress remain a priority. ICBL members were encouraged to meet their governments as well as try to generate some media coverage in their countries by organizing events to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention. A new ‘10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary’ section

was created on the website to provide full support to campaigners and their activities, enabling them to download visual resources and campaigning material: <http://www.icbl.org/treaty/10thanniversary> .

### **Daily Updates**

As it was not possible for all ICBL members to travel to Jordan for the 8MSP, daily updates were provided on the ICBL website to keep the rest of the campaign up-to-date on the developments of the meeting. Under the supervision of the Treaty Implementation Director, daily updates were prepared by campaigners selected according to the themes discussed in the official meetings. All updates and statements made by ICBL members during official meetings were posted in a special section at <http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/8msp>.

### **General Web News**

In addition to traditional means of communication, such as emails and mailings, the ICBL website plays an important role in the organization's visibility and communications with national campaigns, partners and the general public. The ICBL has developed several electronic tools to inform, mobilize and advocate for a mine free world.

In 2007, the ICBL staff continued to produce a newsletter, *ICBL News* in electronic and email form, which was released in the months of April, September and November. The April and November issues were also printed and distributed at the Intersessional meetings and 8MSP. The *ICBL News*, in addition to informing and reporting on ICBL members' activities, also constitutes a great advocacy tool. The newsletter not only allows the national campaigns to exchange information on their activities and planning, but also enhances the visibility of the coalition. It is distributed electronically to a mailing list and is also easily available on the website [http://www.icbl.org/news/icbl\\_news](http://www.icbl.org/news/icbl_news).

The ICBL website contains regular news stories [<http://www.icbl.org/news>] relating to country campaigns and their activities, workshops, and publications.

In the second half of 2007, work was undertaken with a view to assessing how the current structure and content of the website matches the ICBL's goals and needs of users. This included a targeted survey sent to campaigners, a users' poll posted on the website, analysis of statistical data, etc. Additionally, the staff took a closer look at the website to create a list of pages that needed to have information content updated, removed or generally improved upon. This updating is an ongoing process, designed to make the website more educational to both campaigners and the general public.

### **Arabic Website**

On 17 November on the eve of the 8MSP in Jordan, the ICBL launched the first information website on landmines in Arabic. The website [www.mena-protection.org](http://www.mena-protection.org) is managed by Cairo-based ICBL member organization, Protection, and contains background sections about the landmine problem, the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and developments in the struggle against landmines with a special focus on the Middle East and North Africa.

### **New Database**

The new online database project has been available since early 2007, and allows ICBL staff, campaigners and researchers to have access to updated contact information for governments,

ministries, organizations and other campaigners. Among other things, this tool allows users to create queries and do mail-merges. The main objective for this project is to have an online database that can be updated at any time from anywhere, and also for the ICBL staff to be more time-efficient when doing mailings, or organizing or participating in meetings. The database is updated by the staff regularly.

### **F.3 Media Work**

In order to maintain awareness of the landmine issue, and draw international attention to special events in 2007, the ICBL disseminated press releases and media materials to international, regional and local media lists. Throughout the year, the ICBL has been responding to media enquiries, providing interviews opportunities to a variety of print, broadcast and electronic media in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

For 2008, the ICBL is planning to strengthen its capacity to deal with the media both reactively and proactively, and to refine and consolidate its communications tools and materials in the run-up to the 2009 Review Conference. To this end, a new Communication Officer position has been created and will come into being starting from April 2008, to focus exclusively on communication and media matters. As well, the ICBL has contributed extensively to media work efforts in the context of the Oslo process on cluster munitions and will continue to do in the coming year.

The most important events, which included media coverage in 2007, were:

- Condemning attacks on deminers in Afghanistan, 25 March 2008, [www.icbl.org/news/afghanistan\\_pr](http://www.icbl.org/news/afghanistan_pr)
- MBT, Entry into Force, 1 March 2008 [www.icbl.org/news/1\\_march\\_2008](http://www.icbl.org/news/1_march_2008)
- 8MSP press releases on 14 November ([http://www.icbl.org/news/8msp\\_advisory](http://www.icbl.org/news/8msp_advisory)); 22 November ([http://www.icbl.org/news/8msp\\_advisory](http://www.icbl.org/news/8msp_advisory))
- LM launch on 12 November: [http://www.icbl.org/news/07\\_release](http://www.icbl.org/news/07_release)
- Refuting Gaddafi's attack on the MBT, 23 Oct: [http://www.icbl.org/news/gaddafi\\_mbt](http://www.icbl.org/news/gaddafi_mbt)
- Condemnation of attacks on deminers in Afghanistan, 11 September: [http://www.icbl.org/news/afghanistan\\_kidnapping](http://www.icbl.org/news/afghanistan_kidnapping)
- Cambodia announces support for new treaty banning cluster munitions, 14 March
- UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, 4 April: [http://www.icbl.org/news/press\\_release](http://www.icbl.org/news/press_release)
- MBT, Entry into Force, 1 March 2007: [http://www.icbl.org/news/march1\\_pr](http://www.icbl.org/news/march1_pr)
- Urging Pakistan to drop plans to plant mines long with the Afghan border, 12 January: [http://www.icbl.org/news/pakistan\\_minelaying\\_plans](http://www.icbl.org/news/pakistan_minelaying_plans)

### **F.4 10th Anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty**

1997 was a pivotal year in the history of the mine ban movement and saw some of the defining moments of what became known as the Ottawa Process. For the ICBL, the importance of this process was many-fold. For first time in history a commonly used conventional weapon was banned. The ban process was driven by civil society and its success was due to the ability of civil society organizations to strike up an unprecedented partnership with other actors, including small and medium powers, UN agencies and the ICRC. It was recognized by the Norwegian Nobel committee as “a model for similar processes in the future [which] could prove of decisive importance to the international effort for disarmament and peace”.

The anniversaries of several key meetings and events that took place in 1997, which all contributed to the final result, provided a good opportunity to work with ‘historic’ partners (both in civil society and governments), to recognize and pay tribute to their roles and contributions to the collective success. At the same time, it was an opportunity to try and revitalise networks, rekindle engagement and call for new leadership at the international, national and local levels. At the end of 2006, the ICBL elaborated a plan of action to celebrate this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and started integrating related messages in our communication tools, as well as encouraging our members to use this opportunity at national levels to increase awareness.

### **Achievements of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

*Visibility:* The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations aimed to increase the visibility of the landmine issue — at risk of disappearing from the public eye due to its ‘ongoing’ nature and the misconceived impression that it has already been dealt with — and of the ICBL and its members.

*Engagement:* Events and communication strategies reconfirmed partners’ engagement with the issue and new people got involved in the campaign.

*Advocacy:* The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was an incentive to further advocacy goals of the ICBL regarding universalization and implementation, including ensuring full implementation by States Parties up to the next Review Conference and beyond. It also allowed broader discussion on the use of the Ottawa process for other issues, first and foremost the campaign on cluster munitions.

*Strengthening civil society:* The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary promoted the role of civil society, in partnership with governments, to achieve real changes, including in the cluster munitions campaign.

*ICBL role:* The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has assisted ICBL capacity in becoming more strategic, stronger at national level on events and engagement, and stronger in its identity of ‘watchdog’ on Article 5 and victim assistance.

### **Messages**

The slogan chosen for the anniversary year has been: “*1997-2007: The Mine Ban Treaty, A Success in Progress*”. The emphasis was on the fact that success has been undoubtedly achieved, but that work is still ongoing for ensuring that this success is complete and the goals of the treaty are achieved. The slogan was illustrated and articulated into sub-messages formatted in the shape of a check list, visually highlighting the tasks accomplished (which can be ‘ticked off’) and those still to be achieved. The slogan resonated very well with ICBL members, but also with States Parties and partners who inserted it in many of their statements during the year, and particularly during the 8MSP.

### **Communicating the Message**

Since early 2007, the ICBL integrated the *Success in Progress* messages into statements, press releases and all public communication, including the website with the new 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary section, and a new yellow logo and yellow banner.

To communicate and visualize the message, the ICBL created stickers with the yellow logo and distributed them during the 8MSP. The ICBL also created and presented to the public “*The Mine Ban Treaty 1997-2007: A Success in Progress*”, a very rich photo exhibition featuring historical photos of the campaign by photographer John Rodsted, as well as more recent ones from other photographers and campaigners. Emphasis was put on the efforts made in the areas of advocacy, victim assistance, mine risk education, mine clearance, and on the new challenges that still lie ahead in order to make the world free from other indiscriminate weapons, including cluster munitions. ICBL staff researched the necessary information and a graphic designer donated his time to complete the final product.

Mine Ban Treaty 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events were organized worldwide:

➤ *Vienna, February 2007*

On 12 February, a symposium organized by the Austrian government in Vienna, entitled “Assisting Landmine Survivors: A Decade of Efforts”, was the first in a series of events to mark the 10th anniversary of the year in which the Mine Ban Treaty was negotiated and signed. Austria had hosted the first preparatory meeting to discuss elements of a ban treaty in February 1997, attended by 111 states.

The ICBL and its members were well represented at the 2007 Vienna meeting and made interventions throughout the day. ICBL Ambassador and landmine survivor from Uganda, Margaret Arach Orech, gave an opening address, along with Austrian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hans Winkler, General Raimund Schittenhelm, Commander of the Austrian Defense Academy, and Caroline Millar, Australian Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament. Margaret Arach Orech also made a presentation on advances in legislation and policies on disabled persons in Uganda. Katleen Maes, Victim Assistance Thematic Coordinator for the Landmine Monitor, spoke on what data is available on victims and how this knowledge has changed over the past 10 years. Ken Rutherford and Kirsten Young, both from ICBL member organization Landmine Survivors Network, spoke on psychosocial support for survivors and the impact of laws and policies on improving their lives. ICBL Treaty Implementation Director, Tamar Gabelnick, was also in attendance. [<http://www.icbl.org/news/viennasyposium>]

➤ *Tokyo, Japan, September 2007*

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was also celebrated in Tokyo, at the beginning of September. The ICBL member Association for Aid and Relief Japan hosted a two-day Mine Ban event in Tokyo, attended by over 3,000 people. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/japan\\_10th\\_anniversary](http://www.icbl.org/news/japan_10th_anniversary)]

➤ *Oslo, Norway, September 2007*

On 17 and 18 September, the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Mine Ban Treaty was celebrated in Oslo. Events included an all-day civil society forum to discuss how the close civil society-government partnership that worked so well on landmines could be repeated in other areas, and a panel discussion hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/news6\\_2](http://www.icbl.org/news/news6_2)]

As one of the key actors in the creation of the Mine Ban Treaty, the ICBL had a central role during the events. Jody Williams, ICBL ambassador and Nobel co-laureate, urged states to be more proactive on human security, instead of creating and selling increasingly powerful weapons. ICBL ambassadors and landmine survivors, Margaret Arach Orech (Uganda), Tun

Channareth and Song Kosal (Cambodia), stressed that much more needs to be done to implement the treaty, especially with regard to victim assistance.

➤ *India, 27 September 2007*

The Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines commemorated the 10th Anniversary with a conference featuring the participation of the ICRC, UN, diplomatic community, as well as the Indian government. Justice J.S. Verma, Former Chief Justice of India and Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, was the Chief Guest, and the ICBL's Executive Director, Sylvie Brigot, delivered the keynote address, outlining the history of the mine ban movement, its struggles and challenges ahead. Speaking on the occasion, the Canadian High Commissioner, David Malone, lauded the achievements of the Treaty and also expressed optimism that the countries still remaining outside the Treaty would come onboard in the years to come. Dr. Balkrishna Kurvey, Coordinator of the Indian CBL, explained the victim situation in the mine-affected areas of India. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/india\\_10th\\_anniversary](http://www.icbl.org/news/india_10th_anniversary)]

➤ *Paris, Cinema Vérité, 12-14 October 2007*

Antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions were the focus of the first edition of the *Cinéma Vérité - Rencontres Internationales du Cinéma Engagé* film festival, held in Monaco and Paris (France) from 10 to 14 October. The festival paid tribute to Jody Williams and the ICBL, on the tenth anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize, and to other personalities such as Carla Del Ponte, whose commitment and actions have contributed to making the world a better place. Actress Sharon Stone and film director Yamina Benguigui hosted the official ceremonies.

Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams met with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner to press for stronger action on cluster munitions, Iran, Burma and Darfur. During the meeting, Williams called on France to vigorously engage in a ban on cluster munitions and forcefully support the Oslo Process. She echoed Handicap International, which is leading the campaign there, urging France to demonstrate its willingness to concretely address the devastating consequences of the use of cluster bombs by immediately adopting a national moratorium on the use, production and export of these weapons, and start destroying stockpiles. [[http://www.icbl.org/news/jody\\_kouchner](http://www.icbl.org/news/jody_kouchner)]

➤ *Ottawa, 3 December 2007*

Mine action experts, landmine survivors, key political figures and civil society activists from around the world returned to Ottawa, Canada on 3 December 2007 to mark the 10th anniversary of the historic day when the treaty banning the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of antipersonnel mines was signed. A rich program of events, starting on Friday 30 November, offered to activists, diplomats, politicians and the public at large an opportunity to reflect on the 'Success in Progress' of the Mine Ban Treaty, and on the process that brought it about. More about the agenda and activities at: [http://www.icbl.org/news/ottawa\\_anniversary\\_events](http://www.icbl.org/news/ottawa_anniversary_events).

## **G. Landmine Monitor**

Landmine Monitor is the research and monitoring initiative of the ICBL, and the *de facto* monitoring regime for the Mine Ban Treaty. It independently and impartially monitors and reports on States Parties' implementation of and compliance with the Treaty, and more generally, assesses the international community's response to the humanitarian problem

caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Landmine Monitor complements States Parties' transparency reporting required under Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty, but it goes much further, and includes independent reporting and evaluation. As a specific project of the ICBL, Landmine Monitor reports directly to its donors, but a summary of this year's research can be found below to give an overall picture of ICBL's activities.

Landmine Monitor is an indispensable reference tool for the international community. Its reporting is used extensively by governments, international organizations, NGOs, media, academics and the general public, and it is the only initiative in the world to systematically monitor the global landmine situation. As such, it is a key resource that provides governments with the information they need to make informed policy and funding decisions; it provides mine action operators and project donors with crucial information about the situation on the ground in mine-affected countries; and it serves as an advocacy tool for landmine campaigners to use to hold their governments accountable for their actions under the Mine Ban Treaty. By making information about landmines and ERW available in the public domain, Landmine Monitor helps to create broad public awareness of the landmine and ERW problem, and assists in generating the momentum and support needed to sustain mine action efforts.

In June 1998, the ICBL formally agreed to create Landmine Monitor as an ICBL initiative. A four-member Editorial Board coordinates the Landmine Monitor process: Mines Action Canada, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch and Norwegian People's Aid. Mines Action Canada serves as the lead agency. The Editorial Board assumes overall responsibility for and decision-making on Landmine Monitor. A network of 69 researchers in 57 countries and a 23-person Editorial Team gathered information to prepare the 2007 report. Landmine Monitor has utilized the ICBL campaigning network, but has also drawn in other elements of civil society to help monitor and report, including journalists, academics and research institutions.

Landmine Monitor builds upon the experience, expertise and capacities of NGOs and other elements of civil society to systematically monitor and document the various dimensions of the global mine and ERW problem, including use, production, transfer, stockpiling and casualties, as well as progress in clearance, risk education, survivor assistance and global funding for mine action.

Landmine Monitor reporting consists of an Annual Report, Executive Summary, CD-ROM, fact sheets, webpage, and its expertise lies in the global research network. Reports are released at the time of the annual Meetings of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty.

The ninth report, the 1,124-page *Landmine Monitor Report 2007: Toward a Mine-Free World*, was released in November, just prior to the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in Jordan. The 2007 report contains information on 118 countries and areas with respect to landmine ban policy, use, production, transfer, stockpiling, mine clearance, risk education, casualties, survivor assistance and mine action funding. It focuses on mine-affected countries, States Parties with major outstanding treaty implementation obligations and states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty.

On 12 November 2007, *Landmine Monitor Report 2007* was launched globally at a press conference at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, and the report's mine action findings were released at a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia. Both events generated significant international, regional and local media coverage. In the following days, launches and events focused on individual countries and areas were held in cities around the world,

including Aden, Ankara, Auckland, Baku, Brasilia, Brussels, Damascus, Dushanbe, Helsinki, Kiev, Lilongwe, Luxembourg, Lusaka, New Delhi, Peshawar, Phnom Penh, Skopje, Sukhum, Tokyo and Yerevan.

Landmine Monitor incorporates gender considerations into all project activities to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The Editorial Team and research network included significant contributions by women. To the greatest extent possible, Landmine Monitor reported on the impact of antipersonnel mines on women and girls, and included available casualty and other data specifically related to women and girls.

## **H. Management**

### **H.1 Staff**

In 2007, the ICBL team was composed of: Sylvie Brigot, Executive Director (based in France); Simona Beltrami, Advocacy Director (Roma); Katarzyna Derlicka, Advocacy and Campaign Officer (Warsaw); Tamar Gabelnick, Treaty Implementation Director (Geneva); Daiana Savage, Administrative Assistant (Geneva); Patrick Teil, Finance Manager (Lyon). In addition we have worked and integrated in the team numerous interns, essentially in our Geneva office, as well as young professionals working with some of our national campaigns.

Early 2008, we hired Susan Walker as Advocacy Advisor on cluster munitions for a short-term contract, which will be renewed depending on funding available (*see cluster munitions section*). We are also opening two new one-year positions to support the ICBL team in preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference, while contributing substantially and increasingly to the campaign on cluster munitions. A Communication Officer, Amélie Chayer, a Canadian citizen who will work from France, should start on 10 April 2008. The other position still open is a Treaty Implementation officer: [www.icbl.org/news/implementation\\_officer](http://www.icbl.org/news/implementation_officer).

### **H.2 ICBL Assets**

In addition to the staff, the ICBL's activities are supported by a Management Committee, Advisory Board, thematic working groups, ICBL ambassadors and diplomatic advisors and Landmine Monitor team.

#### **Management Committee (MC)**

The Management Committee is composed of Habbouba Aoun (Landmine Resources Center), Elizabeth Bernstein (former ICBL Coordinator), Steve Goose (Human Rights Watch), Paul Hannon (Mines Action Canada) and Ayman Sorour (Protection). The responsibilities of the MC include: regular and consistent oversight of staff/campaign activities, providing rapid feedback to staff; decision-making responsibility; fiduciary responsibility; personnel oversight; and strategies, policy and priority setting (strategic planning).

#### **Advisory Board (AB)**

The Advisory Board is a larger body, representative of various elements of the ICBL and composed of: Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines, Brazilian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines, Colombia Campaign to Ban Landmines, Dan Church Aid, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, ICBL Georgian Committee,

Institute for Practical Research and Training, IPPNW Kyrgyzstan, Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Kenya Coalition Against Landmines, Landmines Resource Centre (Lebanon), Landmine Survivors Network, Mines Action Canada, Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines, Norwegian People's Aid, Nonviolence International, Protection (Egypt), Quaker United Nations Office (Geneva) and Sri Lanka Campaign to Ban Landmines. The AB provides vision, strategic direction, input and feedback regarding the oversight tasks of the MC. It interprets and reflects ICBL membership issues and thinking to the MC. At annual meetings, the AB and MC jointly review strategic planning, with accompanying budget implications, for the upcoming year of ICBL activities.

## **Working Groups**

Issue specific working groups include:

- Treaty Working Group, chaired by Human Rights Watch;
- Working Group on Victim Assistance, co-chaired by Handicap International and the Cambodian CBL;
- Mine Action Working Group, including a specific Article 5 Task Force, facilitated by the Treaty Implementation Director;
- Non-State Actors Working Group, facilitated by the Advocacy Director.

## **ICBL Ambassadors**

The ICBL now has five International Ambassadors, who serve as Campaign spokespersons and who have again this year responded to numerous speaking and visiting requests, particularly around the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The ICBL Ambassadors are: 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate, Ms. Jody Williams; Mr. Tun Channareth from Cambodia; Ms. Song Kosal (Youth Ambassador) from Cambodia; Ms. Liz Bernstein, the former coordinator of the ICBL; and, Margaret Arach Orech from Uganda.

## **ICBL Diplomatic Advisor**

Ambassador Satnam Jit Singh has been working as a Diplomatic Advisor for the ICBL since early 2004, and brings a diverse and highly relevant expertise to the ICBL. He is a landmine survivor, has experience with mine clearance operations, knowledge of military affairs and a long diplomatic exposure. Ambassador Singh is focusing essentially on the universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty.

## **LM Editorial Team**

Although a separate project, coordinated by the Editorial Board, the Landmine Monitor has been established to strengthen the ability of the Campaign to advocate for its goals. The Landmine Monitor establishes the facts that allow the Campaign to develop effective and sound advocacy. Over the years, the Landmine Monitor Editorial Team has helped ICBL staff and campaigns by contributing to develop messages and preparing missions, sharing analysis, participating in workshops as resource persons or even facilitators. This collaboration demonstrates how research and advocacy reinforce each other.

## ENDNOTE

At the beginning of 2007, the ICBL welcomed the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the text of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted on 12 December 2006. The Convention comprises 50 articles plus one additional protocol, and was largely influenced by the input of civil society organizations under the umbrella of the International Disability Caucus. It will now be open to the 192 member states for signature and ratification, and will enter into force one month after having been ratified by 20 countries. “The Disability Rights Convention can serve as a powerful tool to complement the victim assistance obligations in the Mine Ban Treaty,” said Tun Channareth, Cambodian landmine survivor and ICBL Ambassador, recalling that Article 6.3 of the Mine Ban Treaty calls for States Parties to provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims. [<http://www.icbl.org/news/disabilitiesconvention>]