



**ICBL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
2008**

For any questions, please contact:

**Sylvie Brigot
ICBL Executive Director
brigot@icbl.org**

ICBL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	3
FOREWORD	3
2008 ICBL ACTIVITIES: REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS	5
A. Global Landmines Related Conferences	5
B. Universalization	10
B.1 Denouncing the Use of Antipersonnel Landmines	11
B.2 Universalization Advocacy Missions and Other Initiatives	12
C. Implementation	13
C.1 Article 5 (Mine Clearance).....	14
C.2 Victim Assistance.....	15
C.3 Disarmament Obligations.....	16
C.4 Implementation Advocacy Missions, Workshops and Events.....	17
D. Enhancing ICBL’s Advocacy at National Level	18
D.1 Messages Dissemination and Campaign Mobilization	18
D.2 Capacity Building and Support to National Campaigns.....	18
E. ICBL Work on Cluster Munitions	20
E.1 Major Conferences of the Process.....	20
E.2 Strengthening Support for the Process at Regional Fora.....	21
E.3 Engaging and supporting campaigners work at national level (parallel to and coherent with their work on Mine Ban Treaty)	23
E.4 Advocacy and Outreach in Geneva	23
E.5 Treaty Text Development Work	24
E.6 General Support to the CMC	25
F. Crosscutting Advocacy Tools	25
F.1 Online Communication	25
F.2 Printed Materials	26
F.3 Media Work	27
G. Landmine Monitor	28
H. Management	29
H.1 Staff	29
H.2 ICBL Assets.....	30
H.3 Gender in ICBL’s advocacy.....	31

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 France
The government of Germany
The government of Ireland
The government of Norway
The government of Spain
The government of Sweden
The government of Switzerland
The European Commission
UNDP
UNMAS

FOREWORD

The ICBL is a coalition of more than 1000 NGOs active in 70 countries working for a world free of antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions, where survivors can live in dignity. Therefore the ICBL has committed to work to ensure the Convention banning antipersonnel mines is fully implemented and universalised; and to ensure a broad support to the new Convention on Cluster Munitions.

These activities were aiming at preparing for the success of the Second Review Conference on the Mine Ban Treaty, which will take place in November 2009, particularly by laying the groundwork on a number of key policy issues at the 9MSP in November 2008, as well as through regular country-specific advocacy. There were also aiming at securing the success of Oslo Process to bring about a convention banning cluster munitions.

We believe the work of the ICBL in 2008 strengthened the Ottawa Convention particularly through strong and substantial input from civil society in creating a meaningful extension request process, as well as our call for States Parties to deal with violations of the convention, essentially the missed deadlines on stockpile destruction. Although strong follow up remains essential, the ICBL was pleased with the outcomes of the 9MSP related to both issues, which demonstrated the seriousness with which States Parties consider their obligation under the Convention.

At the 9MSP, we had the strongest and more structured presence of survivors in many years, through the “Progress on the ground” initiative led to better advocacy on victim assistance globally, and improved input into the parallel meetings of VA experts developed developed organized by the VA cochairs and supported by the Implementation Support Unit.

Although 2008 did not see any new state joining the convention, continuous engagement with States not Parties by the ICBL and its members did yield a few incremental results. These included the submission of a transparency report by Azerbaijan (the first from a South Caucasus country) in November 2008; the announcement by the Federated States of Micronesia that accession legislation was to be discussed in Congress; and the announcement that Poland had brought the deadline for ratification forward from 2015 to 2012.

Ensuring the momentum around the Ottawa Convention does not decrease until the treaty has fulfilled all its promises, is one of our core objectives. 2008 saw increased activity by national campaigns to simultaneously work on the implementation of the convention banning antipersonnel landmines, and bring about a convention banning cluster munitions. The hope that the formidable achievements of the Mine Ban Treaty could be used again to stop the use of a weapon with similar consequences on civilian populations was certainly a strong incentive for national campaigns to appropriately combine advocacy on both conventions and keep it up, as shown by the many initiatives undertaken during that period.

The end of 2008, and first quarter of 2009 were crucial times to also properly launch the road to Cartagena, get ready for the 2nd Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, and prepare for 2010-2014. "A Mine-Free World, Mission Possible" is the slogan that the ICBL adopted for the Review Conference, and proposed to all its members early 2009 to reaffirm that the mission accepted in 1999, reaching a mine-free world, was actually not only necessary but certainly possible in our lifetime. Through an ambitious programme the ICBL organised, or participated in, events in 65 countries around the world to celebrate the anniversary of the entry into force of the convention, but most importantly highlight its achievements and challenges still ahead that will be at the core of the work of the Review Conference in November. In addition, the campaign obviously seized all occasions to reach out to the general public through online communication and media work, in as many languages as possible.

To some extent unfortunately, 2008 brought many opportunities to move forward the work of the convention, particularly the extension request process, as well violations of the Convention by states which have not met the deadline for the destruction of their stockpile. All issues broadly and intensively discussed during the 9MSP in November which globally ended with a strengthened convention.

Since joining the Steering Committee of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) in February 2007 the ICBL has been extensively engaged in the global effort to stigmatise cluster munitions and to achieve an international ban on cluster munitions. On 3 December, 94 countries signed the new Convention on Cluster Munitions, and 4 ratified it simultaneously.

As Jody Williams stated in our press release that day "The Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions were both inspired by the need to put people's lives before any dubious political or military considerations. Together, the two conventions create an ever stronger framework to protect civilians from further suffering and to address the effects of past use of indiscriminate weapons such as antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions". Once again the model of partnership between governments and civil society brought about much needed change, and we believe we now need to see this partnership ensuring that the new Convention quickly enters into force and its provisions start to be implemented.

In 2008, we believe the ICBL reached the objectives set in the proposal, while recognising that we can certainly improve our impact to ensure the positive change we are calling for, actually happens. We will build on these past months to continue the preparation of the Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention, while working to gather more signatories to the Cluster Munition Convention and to ensure its swift entry into force. We will do so by consolidating the voice of civil society in country to ensure we reach our long term objectives, which are the full implementation of both conventions, and their universalisation.

2008 ICBL ACTIVITIES: REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS

A. *Global Landmines Related Conferences*

A.1 Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings, 2-6 June 2008

The Intersessional Standing Committee meetings (ISC) took place from 2 to 6 June 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meetings provided a forum for States Parties to give updates on their implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty as well as for all participants to discuss progress and remaining issues of concern.

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 Mine Ban Treaty. The ICBL helped prepare the ISC meetings through regular consultation with Standing Committee co-chairs, the Implementation Support Unit, and the ICRC. The ICBL also takes part in the monthly meetings of the Coordinating Committee, made up of Standing Committee Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs, plus Chairs of the Contact Groups and Sponsorship Group.

ICBL campaigners attended the ISC meetings in large numbers, with around 100 campaigners from around the world attending. 35 women and 46 men were in the ICBL delegation; including 8 women and 11 men sponsored by ICBL.

ICBL staff actively participated in the meetings by giving over 20 statements in the plenary sessions and taking part in all of the contact group meetings. The emphasis of these statements was on the serious nature of the failure of three states to meet their stockpile destruction deadlines, the planned request by 15 states for extensions of their mine clearance deadline, plus the need to make meaningful progress on victim assistance by the Review Conference.

During the victim assistance parallel program organized by VA Co-Chairs, landmine survivors and other VA specialists presented government experts with their views on needs, challenges and possible solutions for survivors in mine-affected states. The ICBL also gave a presentation on accessibility during the parallel program and made several informal interventions in the parallel program on victim assistance.

The ICBL staff and campaigners also held many side meetings with diplomats on universalization and implementation and engaged with delegates informally throughout the meetings. The ICBL staff supported campaigners in their advocacy work by providing them with documentation such as a booklet full of specific advocacy messages, plus communicating lobbying goals at daily morning briefings for ICBL delegates.

A.3 9th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 24-28 November 2008

Preparation for the Meeting

The ICBL worked to coordinate a range of activities for the meeting, which included the participation of more than 150 delegates from over 50 countries, the organization of photograph exhibitions, working meetings, briefings and media events. Around 40 participants were sponsored by the ICBL, which entailed the coordination of travel arrangements to and from Geneva, hotel reservations and registration through the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

During the 9MSP in November 2008, 62 women and 94 men were members of the ICBL delegation; including 12 women and 30 men sponsored by ICBL.

In the run up to the 9MSP, the ICBL originated the slogan *Keep Your Word*. Aimed at underlining the first serious violations of the treaty that occurred in 2008 (missed stockpile destruction deadlines, and preoccupying high number of mine clearance extension requests), it reminded governments that it is the joint responsibility of all States Parties to ensure respect for all treaty obligations. The slogan was used in all communication tools related to the 9MSP: newsletter, website, media materials, letterhead, and campaigning tools such as the messages booklet. The slogan and its logo were shared with the national campaigns for use in their lobbying and media activities.

In the preparation of the 9MSP, the ICBL worked closely with its partners, including the President-Designate, Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland, 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 9MSP were developed. The ICBL also participated in the 9MSP Preparatory Meeting in Geneva in September.

Additionally, in October 2008, 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 9MSP as observers.

During the Meeting

At the 9MSP, the international community gathered in Geneva 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 9MSP 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 Sunday 23 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 9MSP. The *Orientation Session* was followed by the *ICBL Campaign Meeting*, where campaigners had the opportunity to take part in 4 different workshops. The main purposes of these workshops was to provide latest update on key implementation issues of the MBT, discuss key ICBL aims and messages on these issues and how to advance them during the 9 MSP as well as brainstorming and exchange ideas on goals, challenges and the work at the national level in the run up to the 2nd Review Conference.

On the same day, ICBL's Advisory Board members were invited to participate in an Advisory Board Meeting where they discussed the expected outcomes of the 2nd Review Conference and the future of the campaign.

During the week, in the evening of Wednesday 26th November, the ICBL held a second *Campaign Meeting* with the aim of starting the discussion on the future of the campaign and engage with campaigners on their perception of the work that will remain to be done after the 2nd Review Conference.

Daily Briefings

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.

Interventions and Statements

During the opening ceremony and opening of the meeting, the ICBL made two interventions: ICBL Youth Ambassador and landmine survivor Song Kosal spoke on the urgent need for States Parties to keep their words and respect their treaty obligations and ICBL's Executive Director Sylvie Brigot spoke on the challenges to the Mine Ban Treaty and emphasized the importance that the Mine Ban Treaty has had on the work to ban cluster munitions. The ICBL's Head of Delegation Steve Goose presented the challenges of the 9th Meeting of States Parties as well as findings from the 2008 Landmine Monitor Report

The ICBL delivered nineteen statements during the official meetings of the 9MSP. 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). Other Statements made by the ICBL included:

- General Statement on Extension Requests, 25 November 2008
- ICBL Comments on Extension Requests - Chad, 25 November 2008
- ICBL Comments on Extension Requests - Ecuador, 25 November 2008
- ICBL Comments on Extension Requests - Peru, 25 November 2008
- ICBL Comments on Extension Requests - Senegal, 25 November 2008
- ICBL Comments on Extension Requests - Thailand, 26 November 2008
- ICBL Comments on Extension Requests - United Kingdom, 26 November 2008
- ICBL Comments on Extension Requests - Venezuela, 26 November 2008
- Statement on Universalization, 26 November 2008
- Statement on Mine Clearance, 27 November 2008
- Landmine Monitor Statement on Victim Assistance, 28 November 2008
- Survivors' Statement on Victim Assistance, 28 November 2008
- Statement on Mine/ERW Risk Education
- Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance (Art. 6), 28 November 2008
- Statement on Mines Retained for Research or Training (Art. 3), 28 November 2008
- Statement on Transparency Reporting (Art. 7), 28 November 2008

All ICBL's statements may be found at: <http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/9msp/statements>

ICBL Input into Official Documents

The documents approved at the 9MSP included the Geneva Progress Report, decisions on the 15 Article 5 (mine clearance) extension requests, plus papers on land release and non-compliance with Article 4 (stockpile destruction). The Geneva Progress Report (GPR) is one of a series of progress reports issued at annual Meetings of the States Parties to document action taken by States Parties to universalize and implement the treaty and to respect the points of the Nairobi Action Plan (NAP). The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director, in consultation with ICBL members, provided both oral and written comments on the GPR, including comments on consecutive drafts and interventions during the 9MSP Preparatory Meeting held in September 2008 in Geneva. Two-thirds of our comments were ultimately included in the final report.

The ICBL gave a considerable amount of input to the decisions on the 15 extension requests, most notably by pressing States Parties from the outset to not just vote yes or no on the requests, but to include comments on the decisions. We contributed oral and written comments to the work of the group of states responsible for analyzing the requests (see Mine Clearance, below), which were the basis for the 9MSP decisions. We also presented our written critiques on each request and made oral comments at the 9MSP, asking States Parties to react especially in cases where States Parties had not begun demining or otherwise showed little willingness to demine “as soon as possible.”

The ICBL also commented on the paper put forward by the Stockpile Destruction Co-chairs on ways to prevent or address cases on non-compliance with Article 4 and called on the three late States Parties to submit monthly progress reports until they finished destroying their stockpiles. ICBL staff and member organizations provided many comments on the land release paper submitted by the chair of the Resource Utilization Contact Group and approved by the 9MSP.

Victim Assistance at 9MSP

The ICBL sponsored 24 Victim Assistance Focal Points including 15 Survivors at the 9MSP. The Focal Points broadly contributed to the victim assistance parallel programs organized by VA co-chairs. The Focal Point’s representatives also addressed the States Parties and other participants about the day to day needs of survivors and advised solutions and ways to accelerate the services based on human rights concept. The focal points offered their technical supports to help the governments in terms of victim assistance within their countries. In addition to interventions, ICBL facilitated a session on accessibility as part of the parallel program on victim assistance.

Through a number of workshop, training and meetings which were organized before and in the margins of 9MSP the practical challenges and gaps in the field of victim assistance have been identified and options proposed to overcome the challenges and fill out the gaps. The various events gave a good opportunity to VA focal points to exchange their perspectives and views from over twenty countries. The Progress on the Ground initiative has been discussed and the VA focal points announced their willingness to implement the initiative in lead-up to 2nd Review Conference within their countries.

For the first time, a joint *breakfast* meeting of VA focal points (including survivors) and VA experts namely the VA26 State’s representatives was organized. It was a good opportunity for both sides to know each other’s perspectives in terms of coordination and collaboration in the field of victim assistance at national level. And the focal points offered their supports to the government representatives.

Lobbying

ICBL campaigners were involved in lobbying during the 9MSP in Geneva. 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 advocate for progress.

ICBL members reported meeting with over 40 states parties and states not party present at the 9MSP, as well as with representatives of UN agencies, the European Commission and other organizations. 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 26 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 9MSP, the ICBL organized various side events, including presentations, briefings, panel discussions and a photo exhibition, providing an alternative forum for discussion beyond the official 9MSP 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 9MSP, the ICBL released in Geneva its 10th edition of the *Landmine Monitor Report*, outlining 2008 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 9MSP.
- A panel discussion called “*Challenges to humanitarian mine action: the case of Colombia*” organized by the ICBL brought together civil society and Colombian government experts to look at the complexities of and challenges to humanitarian mine action in Colombia. The country provides an interesting case study on the challenges mine action faces in situations of ongoing internal conflict. With the relevant modifications, lessons learned from the Colombian experience could be usefully applied elsewhere in the world.
- The Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines organized “*Mine Action in Nepal*”, a panel discussion and exhibition on Mine Action in Nepal.
- Handicap International organized “*Inclusive education: Experiences in mine-affected countries*”, a panel discussion on lessons learned and good practices to implement inclusive education by looking at experiences in mine-affected countries.
- “*Victim Assistance in Colombia*” was a presentation of Handicap International’s ground-breaking study on Victim Assistance in Colombia. The report suggests practical solutions to the gaps that have been identified in VA and refers to good practices for other countries with significant number of survivors.
- 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 “*Progress and challenges in implementing the Deed of Commitment for armed Non-State actors*”.
- In the run-up to the Oslo Signing Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions held the week after the 9MSP, the ICBL and the Cluster Muniton Coalition (CMC) held a panel discussion called “*Update on the international process to ban cluster munitions*” to go over the challenges and opportunities raised in the Oslo process and prepare the way forward.

- The ICBL, including Landmine Monitor, organised a meeting for donors to the Campaign to outline key elements of the Campaign's advocacy and research work in 2008, but most importantly present plans for 2009, particularly the preparation of the Second Review Conference. The ICBL and the CMC presented their coordinated work to promote the Cluster Munition Convention, as well as the decision of both campaigns to use the research network to provide research and monitoring for the Cluster Munition Coalition.

Exhibition

In collaboration with the Swiss Government and the United Nations, the ICBL organized the exhibition "To be determined – At Arms Length" set-up by Chris Minko, Director of the Cambodia National Volleyball League (Disable). This multi-dimensional exhibition included photo essays from some of the world's leading photographers, including John Vink of Magnum along with sculptures made from destroyed AK 47's and a unique display of over 1000 used prostheses from Cambodian landmine survivors. Unfortunately, due to last-minute shipment constraints, the main part of the exhibition had to be cancelled and only the pictures were displayed at the Palais des Nations.

B. Universalization

Promoting universal adherence to the Mine Ban Treaty and ban norm remained one of the ICBL's priorities during the reporting period. Universalization efforts in 2008 built on work done by the ICBL staff and network in previous years and focused in particular on areas with low adherence to the MBT and specifically Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, as well as on one of the two remaining signatories of the treaty, Poland.

The pace of universalization has slowed down in recent years, and came to an apparent halt in 2008, with no new accessions/ratifications. However, continuous engagement with States not Parties by the ICBL and its members did yield a few **incremental results**. These included: the submission of a **transparency report by Azerbaijan** (the first from a South Caucasus country) in November 2008; the announcement by the **Federated States of Micronesia that accession legislation was to be discussed in Congress**; and the **announcement that Poland had brought the deadline for ratification forward from 2015 to 2012**.

The ICBL participated actively in efforts to **coordinate universalization efforts** with other key partners (States Parties, the ICRC, the Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining's Implementation Support Unit) in order to maximize results, avoid duplication and ensure maximum regional coverage. This was done mainly through the Universalization Contact Group, coordinated by Canada, as well as through bilateral contacts.

As in previous years, the ICBL and its members pursued the goal of universalization by picking the most appropriate advocacy tools from a varied toolbox.

These included:

- Universalization **missions** to Libya, Morocco, Nepal and Poland. These provided the opportunity to **deepen the dialogue with national authorities and strengthen collaboration with local civil society**. Exchanges of views during missions also provided

further clarification on the reasons lying behind states' positions vis-à-vis the Convention, which will prove helpful in refining advocacy strategy towards them.

- Constant **communications with governments** in States not Parties, both in capital and through Geneva and New York-based diplomatic missions. ICBL staff gave an overview of the Mine Ban Convention in a briefing for a large delegation of Egyptian diplomats in July in Geneva.
- **One-on-one advocacy meetings** to promote the Convention. These were conducted in the context of Convention- related global and regional meetings, including the Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings (Geneva, 2-6 June 2008) and Ninth Meeting of States Parties (Geneva, 24-28 November 2008). Similar activities were also carried out on the margins of conferences related to the “Oslo process” on cluster munitions, most notably the Dublin Diplomatic Conference (19-30 May 2008) and regional meetings in Laos and Lebanon (October). Target countries for these efforts included Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Georgia, Iran, Israel, Laos, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Poland, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam. On the occasion of the Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings and Meeting of States Parties, a series of **high level meetings** was conducted **with Geneva-based diplomatic representatives** of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iran, Nepal, Oman, Poland and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Letters** encouraging participation in Mine Ban Treaty-related meetings, as well as steps to move closer to accession, which were sent to States not Parties in March and October.
- **Letters** encouraging States not Parties to give a concrete political sign of support to the Treaty by voting in favour of the annual UNGA resolution calling for its universalization. As in previous years, this letter-writing action was complemented by **lobbying at the UN** in New York on the occasion of the First Committee Meeting in October. In 2008, 17 States not Party voted in favour of the resolution.
- **National-level activities** organized by member organizations in States not Parties with ICBL support in countries including Azerbaijan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Poland . Examples of activities supported by the ICBL included: a forum on “The indispensability of antipersonnel mines for India’s defence: myth or reality?” held in Delhi on 26 March; a televised debate in Azerbaijan; and numerous activities in Nepal including a national seminar which culminated in the adoption of a Declaration on a Mine-free Nepal, prepared by the Nepal CBL, by around 100 participants, which included the country’s main political stakeholders.

B.1 Denouncing the Use of Antipersonnel Landmines

In 2008, the ICBL remained vigilant in monitoring and denouncing any new use of antipersonnel landmines, as well as investigating allegations of such use. In the aftermath of the conflict between Russia and Georgia in the summer of 2008, the ICBL was in contact with the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to verify allegations that either party had used antipersonnel mines.

On two separate occasions, in March and August, the ICBL denounced attacks and kidnappings by unidentified armed groups against deminers in Afghanistan, calling on such groups to respect the life-saving work of demining personnel and on the Afghan authorities to guarantee their protection and bring perpetrators of abuses to justice.

[http://www.icbl.org/news/afghanistan_pr] [http://www.icbl.org/news/afghan_deminers_0808]
]

The ICBL and its members, particularly Geneva Call, were engaged in dialogue with non-state armed groups including in Colombia, the Philippines, Thailand, South Caucasus, Western Sahara, Somalia, and India. The Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines developed a new tool to promote adherence by non-state armed groups to the mine ban, called "Rebel Group Declaration of Adherence to International Humanitarian Law on Landmines". In the course of the year, the agreement was signed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and other armed groups such as the Revolutionary Workers Party of Mindanao (RPM-M), the Revolutionary Workers Party of the Philippines (RPM-P, Nilo de la Cruz faction), and the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines (MLPP). The MILF agreement to the Declaration took place during armed hostilities which renewed in August 2008. The MILF, RPM-M and a faction of the RPM-P are also signatories to the Deed of Commitment administered by ICBL member Geneva Call. [http://www.icbl.org/news/milf_nov08]

B.2 Universalization Advocacy Missions and Other Initiatives

- *Bali Workshop on the Implementation and Universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty, 25-27 February 2008*

ICBL delegates including Diplomatic Advisor, Ambassador Satnam Jit Singh attended the workshop organized by Indonesia and Canada with the support of Australia. The workshop was well-attended by states from the region, including six States not Party to the treaty: Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, which provided a useful opportunity to engage with these states on their positions vis-à-vis the treaty. [<http://www.icbl.org/news/baliworkshop>]

- *Poland, March, August and November 2008*

ICBL staff and ambassadors visited Poland on three separate occasions in the months of March, August and November, participating in government meetings and supporting activities organized by ICBL's partner in the country, the Polish Red Cross. In March, ICBL Advocacy Director Simona Beltrami and Campaigning Officer Kasia Derlicka visited Warsaw accompanied by ICBL ambassador and landmine survivor Margaret Arach Orech from Uganda. The ICBL delegates participated in the opening of the "Miss Landmine" photo exhibition hosted by the Polish Red Cross and conducted advocacy meetings with officials from the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs as well as with the chairmen of the relevant parliamentary commissions. Extensive media work was organized around the visit and resulted in heightened public awareness of the issue.

[http://www.icbl.org/news/warsaw_events] In August, the ICBL Advocacy and Campaigning Officer returned to Poland to accompany the visit of the President of the 8th Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, Prince Mired Raad al-Hussain of Jordan. On this occasion, Polish officials mentioned for the first time plans to ratify the Convention in 2012, three years earlier than previously planned [http://www.icbl.org/news/poland_aug08]. Finally, in November, an ICBL delegation composed of the Advocacy and Campaigning Officer Kasia Derlicka and Implementation Officer Firoz Ali Alizada from Afghanistan joined fellow campaigners from the Cluster Munitions Coalition for activities in Warsaw to promote adherence to both the Mine Ban Treaty and the newly-adopted Convention on Cluster Munitions. Activities included high level ministerial meetings as well as a press conference [http://www.icbl.org/news/banbus_poland]. Throughout the year, the Polish Red Cross ran a petition to involve Polish citizens in urging their government to ratify the treaty.

- *Malaysia, ASEAN Regional Forum Seminar on Antipersonnel Landmines, 8-10 April 2008*

The ICBL was represented at the ARF seminar organized by Malaysia and Germany (representing the EU). The seminar was attended by the following States not Parties: China, India, Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Singapore and Vietnam and provided a forum to exchange views with them on their respective positions with regard to accession to the Mine Ban Treaty.

– *Morocco, 26-29 October 2008*

ICBL delegates Tamar Gabelnick and Ayman Sorour conducted a three-day visit to Morocco. Activities included meetings with military representatives, field visits to demining operations in the South of the country and to one military hospital, as well as meetings in Rabat with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during which prospects for accession to both the Mine Ban Treaty and Cluster Munitions Convention were discussed.

– *Libya, 3-4 November 2008*

The ICBL participated in the International Conference on Demining for Development (entitled Together for Libya Free of Mines), held in Tripoli. The conference brought together landmine specialists from around the world to share insights on the issue and to discuss options on how to solve Libya's landmine problems.

– *Nepal, 14-16 December 2008*

The ICBL's Diplomatic Advisor, Ambassador Satnam Jit Singh conducted an advocacy visit to Nepal as a follow-up to the one carried out in September 2007. During his visit he held meetings with the Minister of Peace and Reconstruction, the Army Chief, a Foreign Secretary, the Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, a Defence Secretary, the Parliament's chairperson as well as representatives from the main political parties: the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and Nepali Congress. The visit provided an opportunity to meet with a wide range of stakeholders and identify the hurdles still to be overcome for Nepal to move closer to accession. The visit culminated in a meeting on "Mine Action in Nepal: Success and Challenges", organized by the Nepal CBL, which saw the participation of the main mine action stakeholders in the country.

C. Implementation

The ICBL continues to place the highest importance on the full and timely implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. The focus for 2008 was on mine clearance (Article 5) and victim assistance as the key avenues for achieving the treaty's humanitarian goals. The disarmament goals of the treaty were also our focus after three States Parties missed their 1 March stockpile destruction deadline with millions of mines left in their arsenals and another two came close to missing their deadline of 1 April.

Implementation efforts involve the collaboration of all ICBL components — from staff, to Landmine Monitor (LM) research coordinators, to the member organizations that conduct critical activities at the national level. 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 and active participation in regional and national events. The Wellington, Dublin, and Oslo meetings of the Oslo process on the Cluster Munitions Convention provided additional opportunities to build relationships and discuss implementation challenges with State Party delegates.

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 regular 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 9MSP, 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, the ICRC, ICBL member organizations based in Geneva, Standing Committee Co-Chairs, and other government representatives about the full and timely implementation of the Mine Ban Convention. Prior to the 9MSP in Geneva, 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 focus of the mine ban community's work in 2008 was on the evaluation of requests by 15 States Parties for extensions to their 2009 mine clearance deadline. The ICBL was deeply disappointed with the large number of States Parties that could not finish their mine clearance duties on time, especially by States Parties that had conducted very little or no clearance since joining the convention.

Since 2007, the ICBL has been calling for a serious extension request process that would show requesting states that they would not get an automatic approval, especially on those requests that were the least justified. We called for a group of experts to review the requests and for States Parties to exercise their right to reject any request that did not merit approval, plus the possibility to approve a shorter extension period than requested.

Ultimately, an Analysis Group was formed and produced analyses of each request with observations, comments, and some criticisms. The ICBL provided all States Parties with written critiques of each request and was invited to two sessions of the Analyzing Group to provide oral comments and answer questions. We also worked with requesting states to encourage them to respect their duty to clear their land "as soon as possible." The ICBL Advocacy Director went to Ecuador and Peru to speak with them in detail about the slow pace of demining to date and the unambitious plans set out in their requests. Peru did reduce its request from 10 to 8 years, but Ecuador kept its original request.

While no request was turned down at the 9MSP, the final report included decisions on each request that sometimes encouraged states to finish earlier than planned in their requests, including for Ecuador and Peru. The UK came under particular scrutiny because it had not yet begun demining in the Falkland Islands and showed no plans to do so in the next ten years. Through the efforts of ICBL and some States Parties, it was pressured into making additional pledges to begin demining immediately and report back within 1.5 years on its demining plans. The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director wrote an article summarizing the extension request process in the Winter 2008/09 issue of the Journal of Mine Action.

The ICBL also continued to weigh in on the issue of using technical and non-technical means to release land in a more efficient manner. ICBL staff and member organizations also participated in meetings on this subject in Ljubljana and in Geneva. We have succeeded in changing the discourse on land release from how to "reduce risks" to how to more efficiently

implement Mine Ban Treaty obligations. Through our input on the paper agreed at the 9MSP, we were able to link land release more closely to States Parties' duties to properly identify mined areas and to emphasize the need for communities to feel confident in the safety of the released land.

Since 2007, the ICBL has been raising questions about the tendency of mine action donors to link mine and development. Our concern is that if not done carefully, recipient states might be unaware of how to keep receiving mine action funding or that the responsibility for signalling interest to donor states might be transferred to government officials that are unfamiliar with the rationales for prioritizing mine action. Our regular messages along these lines prompted the EC to issue new guidelines on mine action to help clarify the new procedures and allow EC aid recipients to insert mine action as a priority mid-way through their 5-year aid allocations.

C.2 Victim Assistance

In June 2008, ICBL recruited a new Treaty Implementation Officer from Afghanistan in order to provide general support to the Treaty Implementation Director, with a focus at first on improving our advocacy on victim assistance. His first task was to mobilize and strengthen the national VA civil society networks in affected countries in order to advocate for real progress on victim assistance at the 2nd Review Conference and beyond. In coordination with other staff and member organizations, he successfully created a network of ICBL "VA focal points" in 25 countries (including 21 of the VA26 States) who volunteered to coordinate ICBL advocacy in their country among interested civil society groups. The majority of Focal Points are the survivors and all are part of civil society organizations involved in victim assistance or disability issues.

The Focal Points have been provided with information about victim assistance in the framework of Mine Ban Treaty and the Nairobi Plan of Action, as well as the ICBL's overall goals on VA advocacy for the year. Most of the Focal Points received one day training workshops in November 2009 prior the 9MSP. They were asked to focus their efforts on the ICBL's "Progress on the Ground initiative," which aims to 1) make sure the objectives outlined in 2005 and afterwards by the VA24 (now 26) States are implemented as much as feasible by the 2nd Review Conference, and 2) to ensure SMART objectives for 2009 to 2014 are developed prior to the 2nd Review Conference.

In the last quarter of 2008, the ICBL also produced a booklet called "SO YOU WANT TO ADVOCATE FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE?" The booklet includes nine successful advocacy cases and suggestions on victim assistance advocacy from different parts of the world. The booklet describes the linkages and synergies between the three conventions touching on rights for victims of war and other persons with disabilities (Mine Ban Treaty, CCM and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability). The purpose of the booklet is to provide detailed information to enhance the capacity of all campaigners to get their country to sign, ratify and implement all three of these conventions. The booklet was disseminated to the participants of 9MSP and circulated to ICBL network. In mid 2008, the ICBL website was enriched with a new section on victim assistance including background information and advocacy tools. The quarterly newsletters of ICBL have been reflecting the victim assistance focal points' messages regularly.

After the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the ICBL has been encouraging a harmonized approach on implementation of all related instruments, especially in terms of

focal points, coordination, and planning for supporting war victims and other people with disabilities.

C. 3 Disarmament Obligations

In addition to promoting the treaty's humanitarian goals, the ICBL focused much of its attention in 2008 on the treaty's disarmament provisions given the serious issues facing the convention. Most importantly, the failure of Belarus, Greece, and Turkey to meet their 1 March 2008 stockpile destruction deadline was a black mark on the treaty's otherwise excellent record of compliance with this duty. The situation was particularly serious because these states had millions of mine still in stockpiles after their deadlines, which is deeply troubling from a disarmament point of view.

The ICBL has been in frequent contact with these states before and after their deadline to express our concern about their non-compliance and to encourage them to finish as soon as possible. We sent several letters to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the three states, met with their representatives in Geneva on many occasions, and in the case of Belarus, pressed both the EC and Belarus to work harder to achieve an agreement on the financing necessary for the destruction of their 3 million PFM mines. We met with Ukraine and the EC as well to encourage a new partnership on the destruction of their 6 million PFM mines after the original contract fell through. We also collaborated with the Stockpile Destruction co-chairs and the ISU on a paper that recommends certain steps other states should take to prevent or address non-compliance with Article 4.

The ICBL was also concerned about news that Burundi and Sudan would miss their 1 April stockpile destruction deadlines. We therefore contacted governmental authorities, campaigners, and the UNDP to press them to address the matter in an urgent basis. Ultimately both states met their deadlines. After encouragement from the ICBL and others to finish their stockpile destruction duty "as soon as possible," Indonesia announced completion almost 3 years before their deadline.

The ICBL also spent some time in 2008 raising other issues of concern from the disarmament perspective. We continued to encourage States Parties to make known their interpretations of Articles 1 and 2. At the ISC meetings in June, our efforts prompted several states to declare or reassert their view that any mine that can function as an antipersonnel mine is banned under the treaty. We also continued to work with States Parties to be more transparent about mines retained for training and development under Article 3. A number of states are reporting cuts in the numbers retained, including the destruction of 9,000 retained mines by Algeria.

At the Intersessional Meetings and the 9MSP we lobbied states to turn in their late Article 7 transparency reports, made statements noting the importance of these reports and participated in the Article 7 Contact Group. The Treaty Implementation Director also visited the missions of the four states with outstanding initial transparency reports to encourage them to submit them without further delay. We also pressed states that have not adopted national implementation measures under Article 9 to do so urgently.

Finally, we took special note this year of the increasing number of compliance issues for the convention (from non-compliance with the Stockpile Destruction deadline to allegations of new use of landmines by Thailand), repeating our call for a more systematized approach to dealing with such cases on an informal basis and operationalizing the formal compliance mechanisms. Regarding Thailand's allegations that several new AP mines were planted near the Cambodian border, we spoke at length with both ambassadors and the 9MSP president to

encourage them to conduct a joint investigation of the facts and to cooperate on demining the border to avoid further incidents. We also succeeded in contacting the head of the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia regarding past allegations of transfers of antipersonnel mines to Somalia from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Yemen. Although they could not find details on the past allegations, we asked them to be clearer in the future about allegations of transfers of antipersonnel mines as opposed to other illicit arms transfers.

C.4 Implementation Advocacy Missions, Workshops and Events

As part of our implementation efforts and in order to raise the profile of the Mine Ban Treaty among a broader audience, the ICBL participated in several national, regional and international conferences and undertook advocacy missions, as described below:

- *Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom Annual Meeting, 5 March 2008*
The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director made a speech to the annual WILPF meeting entitled “Women, Weapons and Disarmament: Landmines & Cluster Bombs.” The speech touched on the special impact landmines and clusters have on women and girls’ lives and the efforts of the international community to address them.
- *Ottawa Convention Implementation and Universalization Workshop, Bali, Indonesia, 25-27 February 2008* See B.2 above.
- *Workshop on Land Release, Slovenia, April 2008*
The ICBL participated in a workshop on land release in Slovenia, one in a series of such meetings held among mine action operators, national demining authorities and other interested parties. During the workshop, we were able to reinforce our view that this technique should be used wherever appropriate, but needs to be conducted in a very careful and transparent manner so that all parties have confidence in their ability to safely use the released land.
- *UN Program Directors’ Meeting, Croatia, April 2008*
The annual UN Program Directors’ Meeting in Croatia provided an excellent networking opportunity and allowed the Treaty Implementation Director to have numerous side meetings with mine-affected states, especially with those that had recently submitted requests for extensions.
- *Advocacy Mission to Turkey, 22-23 May 2008*
The Treaty Implementation Director was invited to Ankara to discuss Turkey’s failure to meet its stockpile destruction deadline of 1 March 2008. During the advocacy mission ICBL staff visited a military rehabilitation centre and the new ammunition disposal facility in Ankara. The rehabilitation center provides patients with medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support, and assistance in gaining a new trade and finding a job. Discussions with Turkey on their position on the new Convention on Cluster Munitions were also held. The main advocacy message communicated was the need for Turkey to make the maximum effort to finish the destruction of its remaining stockpile, to give an estimate of when it plans to complete its obligation and to provide detailed information on progress on a regular basis.
- *“Towards Global Coherence in Addressing the Problems Caused by Landmines, Cluster Munitions and Explosive Remnants of War”, Druskininkai, Lithuania, 26-28 June 2008*
ICBL staff participated in this regional conference where issues like the relevance of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the region and linkages with the Ottawa Treaty were

discussed. ICBL Advocacy and Campaigning Officer, Katarzyna Derlicka, delivered remarks on compliance concerns and challenges, mostly focusing on Art. 4 and the three cases of non-compliance as well as potential future case of Ukraine, raising the necessity of having more formal mechanisms in place to prevent / address such cases in the future. ICBL also spoke of the meaning and relevance of the CCM in the region and lessons learned or not learned from the MBT.

– *Advocacy Mission to Peru and Ecuador, September 2008*

The Treaty Advocacy Director visited Lima and Quito to discuss in detail their Article 5 extension requests with a view to encouraging them to find ways to be more efficient and to present more ambitious requests at the 9MSP. She was accompanied by a member of the Landmine Monitor mine action team, who travelled to the field in both states to gain a better sense of the challenges they are facing.

D. Enhancing ICBL’s Advocacy at National Level

During the reporting period, the ICBL continued to nurture its network in order to strengthen advocacy at the national level on implementation and universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty, as well as on cluster munitions and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

D.1 Messages Dissemination and Campaign Mobilization

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

- Global mobilization and call to actions around main Convention-related events, such as 1 March, ISC meeting, and MSP.
- 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 (*See section E for more details*);
- 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.2 Capacity Building and Support to National Campaigns

Workshops and trainings for campaigners

The ICBL staff organized a number of workshops and trainings to enhance capacity of national campaigns to advocate on the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. Ahead of the 9 MSP the ICBL campaigners took part in a series of workshops aimed at providing latest updates on and to discuss messages and advocacy tools to advance progress on some key obligations of the Treaty, in particular mine clearance, victim assistance, and issues of Art. 1, 2, 3, 7, and 9, as well as to brainstorm and exchange ideas on goals, challenges and work at national level in the run up to the 2nd Review Conference. The ICBL staff have also

conducted trainings and workshops for the CMC campaigners to share experience and lessons learned of the mine ban movement and the universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty (*See section E for more details*).

Focus on Victim Assistance Advocacy

In June 2008, ICBL recruited a new Treaty Implementation Officer from Afghanistan in order to provide general support to the Treaty Implementation Director, with a focus at first on improving our advocacy on victim assistance. His first task was to mobilize and strengthen the national VA civil society networks in affected countries in order to advocate for real progress on victim assistance at the 2nd Review Conference and beyond. In coordination with other staff and member organizations, he successfully created a network of ICBL “VA focal points” in 25 countries (including 21 of the VA26 States) who volunteered to coordinate ICBL advocacy in their country among interested civil society groups. The majority of Focal Points are the survivors and all are part of civil society organizations involved in victim assistance or disability issues. They include 9 women.

22 of these focal points received some support through the small grant support schemes of the ICBL. Among the 22 recipients, 7 were women.

Information related to landmine casualties clearly indicate that men, and young boys are more often direct victims of landmines than women, and girls, because of their occupations and responsibilities, and curiosity, when it comes to young boys who often takes those explosives to play. It does not mean though that women and girls are not victims as well, either directly, or in the sense that they are affected because of the loss, or incapacity, of their husbands, or denied access to land, or water, or because as young girls, many of their daily aspects of their life can be affected by the presence of mines, such as playing freely, or going to school. However, this fact explains partly why the proportion of men in the community of survivors is higher than women, and why, when we work with survivors the number of men is still higher.

The Focal Points have been provided with information about victim assistance in the framework of Mine Ban Treaty and the Nairobi Plan of Action, as well as the ICBL’s overall goals on VA advocacy for the year. Most of the Focal Points received one day training workshops in November 2009 prior the 9MSP. They were asked to focus their efforts on the ICBL’s “Progress on the Ground initiative,” which aims to 1) make sure the objectives outlined in 2005 and afterwards by the VA24 (now 26) States are implemented as much as feasible by the 2nd Review Conference, and 2) to ensure SMART objectives for 2009 to 2014 are developed prior to the 2nd Review Conference.

One-on-one meetings and follow-up with national campaigns and contacts

The ICBL staff and national campaigns regularly held one-on-one meetings to discuss, and further elaborate national advocacy plans and strategies. In 2008 these were held during the ISC, MSP, regional Mine Ban Treaty workshops, cluster munitions meetings, as well as advocacy missions, 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

Over the last 3 years, the ICBL has launched support programs for the national campaigns, through some small grants, in addition to the technical and individual support given through regular contacts with the ICBL team. In 2007: supports were given to 10 men and 9 women. In 2008: for the 1st March events, the ICBL has granted support to 22 males and 17 females. The ICBL also gave some particular support to campaigns with special projects and needs, in 2008, all of projects were led by women. They included campaigns in Greece, Uganda, Turkey, Nepal and Mongolia.

E. ICBL Work on Cluster Munitions

Since joining the Steering Committee of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) in February 2007 the ICBL has been extensively engaged in the global effort to stigmatise cluster munitions and to achieve an international ban on cluster munitions.

In 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;*
- *Engaging and supporting campaigners work on cluster munitions at national level*
- *Advocacy and outreach work in Geneva;*
- *Contribution to the treaty text development*
- *General support to the CMC.*

E.1 Major Conferences of the Process

The ICBL staff, members of the Management Committee, ambassadors, advisors, and campaigners participated in and contributed extensively to all global conferences and the majority of the regional conferences of the cluster munitions ban process - in Wellington, Dublin, and Oslo by providing input to the CMC documents and interventions, lobbying and campaigning, as well as carrying out media work and training activities.

– Wellington Conference on Cluster Munitions, 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 policy documents, including detailed comments on the draft convention text; 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

– Dublin Conference on Cluster Munitions, Ireland, 19-30 May 2008

The ICBL staff members were actively engaged in preparations for and work at the Dublin conference, which included: developing the CMC commentary on the draft text and a set of policy papers on issues of concern; mobilization at national level to ensure good and broad states participation in the negotiations; working with states to improve the language of the draft treaty; helping to coordinate the CMC advocacy and campaigning out of the so called 'Ban Room'; running of the parallel civil society forum with a series of workshops and development of the *CMC Action Plan: From Dublin to Oslo*; creating a newsletter for distribution throughout the conference; as well as providing support in training and daily coordination of the campaign's presence and work. The ICBL Ambassadors Jody Williams, Margaret Arach Orech, and Tun Channareth were extensively involved in outreach activities outside of the conference room and in media work.

<http://www.icbl.org/news/dublin>

– *Convention on Cluster Munitions Signing Conference, Oslo, Norway, 2-4 December 2008*
The CCM Signing Conference was one of the most important international events of 2008, with 94 countries signing and with 4 states ratifying the Convention in Oslo. Signatories of the treaty included dozens of users, producers, and stockpilers, as well as affected states. The ICBL staff, Ambassadors, and campaigners were actively working on the conference preparations by: lobbying governments to sign the Convention in Oslo and to plan next steps of ratification and implementation; coordinating of the civil society's witnessing of the treaty signing; contributing to campaign workshops and trainings in advance and after the conference; engaging with delegations present in Oslo on future steps to ensure the Convention's swift entry into force. The ICBL Ambassador Margaret Arach Orech delivered one of the statements on behalf of the CMC, welcoming the convention and outlining challenges lying ahead on the road to a cluster munitions-free world.

http://www.icbl.org/news/ccm_signing_conference

E.2 Strengthening Support for the Process at Regional Fora

To ensure success of the Oslo Process on cluster munitions, it has been crucial to build understanding for the need of a cluster munitions ban and later to promote the new Convention on Cluster Munitions at regional level. Therefore in 2008 and in the first quarter of 2009 the ICBL continued to work jointly with national campaigns and the CMC to organize or contribute to a series of regional conferences and events aimed at promoting the Convention in the regions and bringing onboard as many countries as possible.

- *Livingstone Conference on Cluster Munitions, Zambia, 31 March -1 April 2008*

The ICBL staff, Advisor, and Ambassador, as well as campaigners from the region, were engaged in the preparations and participated in the panafrikan conference, which gathered 39 African states to discuss the most controversial topics ahead of the two-week diplomatic negotiation in Dublin. The civil society was hosted by the *Zambian Campaign to Ban Landmines*, supported by the CMC preparation team including, the ICBL staff members. The ICBL Ambassador Margaret Arach Orech gave a personal testimony and overview of the scope of the problem in Africa in the first plenary session of the conference. Over the two days of the conference the ICBL staff and campaigners worked closely with African delegations to ensure full understanding of the issues at hand and to advocate for Africa's strong position and active participation in the Dublin negotiations. As a result 38 out of 39 countries attending the meeting endorsed a strong political "Livingstone Declaration", committing them to negotiating a global ban on the weapons. African states played a very active role at the treaty negotiation in Dublin, advocating for a strong treaty text, and a total of 34 African states adopted the treaty in Dublin.

http://www.icbl.org/news/zambia_pr

– *Regional Conference For Latin America And the Caribbean, Mexico City, Mexico, 17 April 2008*

The ICBL Advocacy Director and campaigners from the region, were engaged in the preparations and participated in the regional conference, which gathered over 20 states from Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss the most controversial issues ahead of the diplomatic negotiation in Dublin, including possible exceptions to the ban, the question of joint military operations with non-state parties that may use cluster munitions and calls by some producer and stockpiler countries for transition periods.

The ICBL staff member and campaigners helped organizing public civil society events and media work ahead of the meeting, and throughout the conference worked closely with the present delegations to ensure full understanding of the issues at hand, as well as secure broad support for a strong treaty text and active participation of countries from the region in the final treaty negotiations. As an outcome more than 20 Latin American and Caribbean governments reaffirmed their commitment to a global ban on cluster, and participated very actively in the Dublin negotiations.

http://www.icbl.org/news/mexico_cmc

– *Southeast Asia Regional Conference on Cluster Munitions, Bangkok, Thailand, 24-25 April 2008*

ICBL Advocacy Advisor and campaigners from the region participated in the Regional Conference on Cluster Munitions organized by the ICRC, which gathered representatives of seven countries from the South-East Asia region. The ICBL Advisor and campaigners lobbied the delegations to take part in the final treaty negotiations and support a strong text. As a result Lao PDR and Cambodia, two affected countries, along with Brunei, Indonesia, and Philippines adopted the CCM in Dublin, and Thailand and Vietnam participated as observers.

- *Sofia Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Bulgaria, 18-19 September 2008*

ICBL Advocacy Officer and campaigners from the region participated in the Regional Conference, which gathered representatives of eleven countries from the South-East Europe region. The ICBL staff was involved in the preparations and follow-up in the lead up to the conference, as well as in coordination of civil society at the conference. The ICBL campaigners and Advocacy Officer lobbied the delegations to sign the treaty in December. As a result Albania, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, and Montenegro signed the CCM in Oslo.

- *Kampala Conference on the Convention Cluster Munitions, Uganda, 29-30 September 2008*

The ICBL Ambassador Margaret Arach Oreh, staff and Advocacy Advisor played crucial role in preparations for and at during the conference that gathered 40 African states with the aim to promote signature of the CCM in December 2008. The ICBL Ambassador was the civil society host and organized a series of public events and media work ahead of the conference, as well as spoke on behalf of the CMC at the conference plenary. Throughout the conference the ICBL staff and Advocacy Advisor were engaging the delegations to explain issues of concern and to urge them to sign the new Convention in Oslo in December. As a result a total of 34 African states signed the convention in Oslo, including South Africa, and one country ratified it. of campaigners and cluster bomb survivors, called on all African governments to unite in signing the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo on 3 December 2008.

<http://www.icbl.org/news/kampala>

- South East Asia Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Xiengkhuang, Lao PDR, 20-22 October 2008

ICBL Advocacy Advisor and campaigners from the region participated in the Regional Conference for South-East Asia, which gathered representatives of ten countries from the South-East Asia region. The ICBL Advisor and campaigners lobbied the delegations to take part in the final treaty negotiations and support a strong text. As a result Lao PDR, Indonesia, and Philippines signed the CCM in Oslo, and Lao PDR has become a regional champion and leader on this issue.

- National Workshop on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Vietnam, 27 - 28 October

The ICBL Advocacy Advisor participated in the national workshop hosted by Department of International Organizations - Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DIO - MOFA) with the support of UNDP Vietnam and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Vietnam. It was the first event on this issue in the country which

E.3 Engaging and supporting campaigners work at national level (parallel to and coherent with their work on Mine Ban Treaty)

In 2008 the ICBL staff continued to nurture and work closely with national campaigns to integrate the issue of cluster munitions and the CCM in their national advocacy plans, along with activities related to the Mine Ban Convention.

In order to ensure full integration and coherence of campaigning and advocacy on the CCM with the ongoing work on the Mine Ban Treaty, the ICBL team made sure that:

- Messages on cluster munitions have been integrated into 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, the ICBL Newsletter, campaigning actions, press releases, and other publications.
- Advocacy on cluster munitions has been included in the one-on-one work undertaken by the Advocacy and Campaign Officer and by other team members with national campaigns.
- Support program for national campaigns aimed to support and enhance national advocacy and campaigning on both the Mine Ban Treaty and CCM.

E.4 Advocacy and Outreach in Geneva

Having a base in Geneva and close relationships with the diplomatic missions and the UN, the ICBL have been engaging in advocacy and outreach on cluster munitions. In this respect, the ICBL staff and Advocacy Advisor (throughout the year 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; as well as, following developments at the CCW.

The ICBL staff has also organized and /or participated in and made presentations at briefings and events on cluster munitions held in Geneva, aimed at raising awareness about the cluster munitions ban process and promoting the CCM.

– *Briefing for New Diplomats, Geneva, 8 February*

On invitation of the Geneva Forum, the ICBL Treaty Implementation Director made a presentation on the Oslo process for diplomats who have recently arrived in Geneva to work on disarmament issues.

– *Briefing for African States on the new Convention on Cluster Munitions, Geneva, Switzerland, 16 September 2008*

In the lead up to the African Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which took place in Kampala, Uganda on 29-30 September 2008, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines held a lunchtime briefing for African Missions in Geneva on the new Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The purpose of the briefing was to update the African diplomatic missions on the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Oslo Signing Conference, as well as on the Kampala Regional Conference. Besides the ICBL, speakers included representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Ambassador of Uganda. A dozen African Missions were represented at the briefing. As a result a few days later more than 40 African states had registered for the Kampala Regional Conference and over 30 signed the CCM in Oslo.

<http://www.icbl.org/news/ccmbriefing>

– *Briefing for Arabic States on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Geneva, Switzerland, 30 October 2008*

In the lead up to the CCM Signing Conference in Oslo, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, held a lunchtime briefing for Arabic Missions in Geneva on the new Convention. This event was part of the CMC Global Week of Action To Ban Cluster Bombs (27 October-2 November) 2008). The purpose of the briefing was to update the Arabic diplomatic missions on the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Oslo Signing Conference, as well as on the Beirut Regional Conference on Cluster Munitions which took place in Lebanon on 11-12 November. Besides the ICBL, the speakers included representatives from the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the UN in Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The event was attended by representatives of ten Arabic Missions and several representatives of UN and NGOs. As a result the Beirut conference was well attended and Lebanon endorsed the CCM and later signed it in Oslo.

http://www.icbl.org/news/briefing_2

E.5 Treaty Text Development Work

The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director spent a significant amount of time in 2008 seeking to incorporate lessons learned from implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty into the text of the new Cluster Munitions Convention. In addition to drafting multiple elements of the CMC commentaries on the drafts, she worked directly with states in Wellington and Dublin to ensure that the maximum number of the CMC's proposals were incorporated into the adopted text. The impact of such work was especially successful on the sections on clearance and transparency, both of which markedly improved between the original draft and the final text. ICBL staff and campaigners, including many survivors, also contributed to the development of the landmark victim assistance language that we now seek to use as a model for implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

E.6 General Support to the CMC

As a member of the CMC Steering Committee, the ICBL continued supporting and actively contributing to the development of the work of the Coalition, and to the complementarities of all forces to achieve and promote the CCM.

Examples of support of the ICBL team has provided to the CMC:

- preparations to and participation in international, regional and national meetings and events on cluster munitions
- global mobilization of campaign around crucial dates such as: in the run up to various meetings and conferences, the Global Day of Action to Ban Cluster Bombs (19 April 2008) and the Global Week of Action (27 October – 2 November)
- media strategy and work around conferences and events
- contribution to various policy and campaigning materials
- campaigning support and coordination at national and regional level and at international conferences (including national plans development, consultations on campaigner' funding project proposals, regional networking, trainings, co-facilitations and division of tasks at international gatherings, etc)
- participation in CMC Steering Committee discussions and meetings

F. Crosscutting Advocacy Tools

F.1 Online Communication

Web News

The ICBL website plays an important role in the organization's visibility and communications with national campaigns, partners and the general public. In 2008, the website was regularly updated with news stories relating to campaigns, advocacy activities and publications. This included, *inter alia*, posts on workshops organized by national campaigns, conferences of the Oslo process to ban cluster munitions, the Intersessional Standing Committees meetings, the Meeting of the States Parties, universalization of the ban norm, stockpile destruction and mine clearance efforts worldwide, , as well as media advisories and press releases.

www.icbl.org/news

Focus on Mine Clearance and Victim Assistance

Mine clearance extension requests and the urgent need for progress on victim assistance being two main focuses of the ICBL in 2008, webpages on these issues were enhanced with information on policy and recent developments. This included links to all extension requests, as well as ICBL critiques aimed at guiding States Parties' evaluation of the extension requests and at helping campaigners lobby governments. Background information on victim assistance and a compilation of publications on all aspects of victim assistance (data collection, medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support, socio-economic reintegration and public policies) were made available on the web, to support advocacy by ICBL members on the issue.

www.icbl.org/treaty/mine_action ; www.icbl.org/treaty/va

ICBL News – Printed and E-newsletter

The ICBL's quarterly newsletter was redesigned using professional tools, for a clearer and more reader-friendly layout with prominent use of photos, in the view of emphasizing key

messages on both the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The e-newsletter is sent 4 times a year to a list of subscribers, and hard copies are distributed twice a year at the ISC meetings and MSP. 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, is an essential tool for disseminating key messages, and helps raising voices from the field for decision-makers to hear them. In addition to the ICBL News, ICBL staff also contributed to the Cluster Muniton Coalition newsletter distributed every other day to government delegates to the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions, helping to put forward the views of civil society during the final negotiations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

www.icbl.org/news/icbl_news

Website and IT Tools Revamp

A new IT firm was identified to carry the website revamp work and to provide general IT tools maintenance, at a lower cost and with enhanced responsiveness compared to the ICBL's previous service provider. A new, streamlined website structure has been setup. Reflecting the ICBL's general strategy and mandate, it integrates messages on both antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions, and emphasizes that the Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions are the best frameworks to address these issues. The website aims at providing reliable and up-to-date information about these issues; acting as a "vitrine" for the ICBL's work and current messages; motivating people to get involved and providing them with ways to do so; acting as a channel for private donations; and collecting feedback and questions from users. The technical setup of the new site as well as migration of all ICBL IT applications to an upgraded, safer server started in the last quarter of 2008.

F.2 Printed Materials

Messages Booklet

Responding to requests from campaigners for help in identifying key points to make with governments during international meetings, in 2008, the Treaty Implementation Director updated the "ICBL Messages Booklet". The 16-page guide provides a succinct description of the main policy issues ICBL works on (the key treaty articles, plus universalization), as well as messages to communicate to governments, and the relevant target countries for each topic. The 2008 booklets emphasized the need for States Parties to make progress on the ground in survivor assistance; to finish mine clearance within deadlines; to speak up against unjustified clearance deadline extension requests; and to respect all treaty obligations. In addition to providing key messages related to the Mine Ban Treaty, the messages booklets include universalization messages related to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and serves as a reference guide, providing information on the States Parties' treaty deadlines, the list of 26 states with high numbers of mine victims, states keeping large numbers of mines, high priority targets for universalization, etc. The booklets were introduced to campaigners at the ISC meetings and 9MSP, and were made available on the website.

Advocacy Brochure: So You Want to Advocate for Victim Assistance?

Capitalizing on the network members' rich and diverse campaigning experience is key to reaching the ICBL's advocacy goals. To disseminate messages on victim assistance and share lessons learned within the campaign, an advocacy brochure was prepared in 2008, in close cooperation with several members campaigns. It provides an overview of the legal instruments promoting the rights of victims (Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on Cluster Munitions, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities); lists advocacy steps and tips; and showcases successful advocacy activities undertaken by 9 national campaigns from

all continents, which can be adapted and applied to other contexts. The brochure was distributed to the ICBL victim assistance focal points and to all interested campaigners at the 9MSP, as well as made available on the website.

F.3 Media Work

Throughout the Year - Covering Landmines and Cluster Munitions

In order to maintain awareness of the landmine issue and to keep the momentum towards a complete ban on cluster munitions, the ICBL disseminated press releases and media materials to international, regional and local media in 2008. Interview opportunities were provided to a variety of print, broadcast and electronic media in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Italian, Dari and several other languages. The most important events on which the ICBL attracted media attention in 2008 were:

- Mine Ban Treaty entry into force anniversary: www.icbl.org/news/1_march_2008
- Condemnation of attacks on Afghan deminers: www.icbl.org/news/afghanistan_pr
- UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action: www.icbl.org/news/4_april_2008
- UN Disability Rights Convention entry into force: www.icbl.org/news/crpdpressrelease
- Condemnation of Russian use of cluster munitions in Georgia: www.icbl.org/news/cm_georgia
- Launch of Landmine Monitor Report 2008: www.icbl.org/news/lm08
- Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the MBT: www.icbl.org/news/9msp_pressrelease, www.icbl.org/news/pr26nov08, www.icbl.org/news/pr28nov08
- Call for the immediate reopening of Shirin Ebadi's offices: www.icbl.org/news/pressrelease_22dec08
- Signing of the CCM: www.icbl.org/news/oslo_icbl

In addition, CMC press releases and media materials were posted on the ICBL website about the following events:

- Wellington Regional Conference on Cluster Munitions: www.icbl.org/news/wellington_final
- Livingstone Regional Conference on Cluster Munitions: www.icbl.org/news/zambia_pr
- Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico City: www.icbl.org/news/mexico_cmc
- Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions: http://www.icbl.org/news/dublin_opening , www.icbl.org/news/dublin__1
- Condemnation of Georgian use of cluster munitions: www.icbl.org/news/cmcgeorgia
- Kampala Regional Meeting on the CCM: www.icbl.org/news/kampala1
- Sofia Regional Meeting on the CCM: www.icbl.org/news/sofia
- Signing of the CCM: www.icbl.org/news/ccm_oslo_cmc_press_release

Landmine Monitor Report Launch and 9th Meeting of the States Parties

The 9th Meeting of the States Parties (MSP) provided an excellent opportunity to engage with the media. The ICBL organized or participated in the following press conferences, delivering statements and distributing background information:

- 10 Nov., pre-opening press conf - providing an overview of the issues;
- 21 Nov., Landmine Monitor Report launch;
- 24 Nov., opening of the MSP;
- 28 Nov., conclusion of the MSP and granting of extension requests.

Advisories were sent before the events and all UN-accredited Geneva-based international journalists were contacted to ensure wide participation. Over 30 international media representatives attended the report launch and dozens of interviews were given by ICBL experts, mine survivors and field workers during the week of the MSP, resulting in extensive media coverage of the ICBL messages. Published or broadcast stories included *inter alia* the International Herald Tribune, the New York Times, the Mainichi Shinbun, the BBC, Fox News, Bloomberg, Al-Jazeera, as well as global agencies such as Reuters, Associated Press, Agence France Presse, Deutsche Press Agency and EFE. Coverage was generated in all UN languages except Chinese. All identified coverage carried the ICBL messages in a positive fashion.

The exceptional nature of the first serious violations of the Mine Ban Treaty and of the first mine clearance deadline extension requests by 15 countries, proved to be of special interest for the media, which found in the ICBL a reliable source of information both before the MSP -for background- and during the week -for up to the minute developments. The ICBL also seized the opportunity to promote the Signing Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions held on the week after the MSP, and to stress the complementary nature of the Mine Ban Treaty and the new convention.

Media work by the ICBL included having a multilingual ICBL team on-site at the UN building doing proactive and reactive work, in addition to encouraging campaigners to contact their national media and providing campaigners with translated materials.

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 program 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 and ERW war 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 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. In 2008, Landmine Monitor also became functionally the research and monitoring arm of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and Landmine Action was added as the fifth Editorial Board member. A network of 59 researchers in 46 countries and a 20-person Editorial Team gathered information to prepare the 2008 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 tenth report, the 1,155-page Landmine Monitor Report 2008: Toward a Mine-Free World, was released in November, just prior to the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in Geneva. The 2008 report contains information on 120 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. www.icbl.org/lm

On 21 November 2008, Landmine Monitor Report 2008 was launched globally at a press conference at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. In the following days, launches and events focused on individual countries and areas were held in dozens of countries around the world.

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 2008, the ICBL team was composed of: Sylvie Brigot, Executive Director (based in Paris, France); Simona Beltrami, Advocacy Director (Rome, Italy); Firoz Alizada, Treaty Implementation Officer (based in Afghanistan until September 2008 and then relocated in Geneva); Amelie Chayer, Communications Officer (Montreal, Canada); Katarzyna Derlicka, Advocacy and Campaign Officer (Geneva); Tamar Gabelnick, Treaty Implementation Director (Geneva); Daiana Savage, Administrative Officer (Geneva); Patrick Teil, Finance Manager (Lyon, France). In addition, the ICBL recruited Olivia Denonville in order to replace the Administrative Officer during her maternity leave from March until August 2008. Ms. Olivia Denonville remained part of the Geneva team, to help with preparations of the 2nd

Review Conference, her title being Project Officer. We have also worked and integrated in the team numerous interns, essentially in our Geneva office.

Early 2008, Susan Walker was hired as Advocacy Advisor on cluster munitions with a one year contract. The contract was not renewed.

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)

During 2008, the Management Committee was 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 included: 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, in 2008, 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.

ICBL Ambassadors

In 2008, the ICBL had five International Ambassadors, who served as Campaign spokespersons and who have responded to numerous speaking and visiting requests. 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. Elizabeth 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.

H 3. Gender in ICBL's advocacy

Our history in working on the suffering of civilian populations affected by indiscriminate weapons led us to be particularly sensitive to ensuring an equal voice to all individuals, men, women, children, boys and girls, who wanted to be involved. In addition, the strength of the campaign remains with the ability of all its members to unite behind the same banner to continue working on reaching the goals of the Mine Ban Treaty, while being recognised and acknowledged as individual organisation, or person.

The ICBL is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective and maintaining a gender balance in its work at all levels, as part of its commitment to work on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security. The ICBL endeavours to ensure that men and women will be equally involved in planning the activities of the campaign, including staff members, campaigners and key partners.

The ICBL tries to ensure that in implementing its activities there is broad gender diversity. For example, at events that ICBL organises, or where ICBL is represented, we always work to ensure that there is a good gender balance in terms of speakers, facilitators, presenters and in delegations to meetings. We also try to ensure that beneficiaries of the small grants work to ensure a gender balance too.

More particularly, women always had a significant role in the ICBL. Starting from its first coordinator, Jody Williams, until now, all coordinators of the Campaign have been women; and until 2006 the coordinating team was only composed by women. The ICBL team is composed of 8 women, including the Executive Director, and 2 men. The governing bodies of the ICBL are the Advisory Board and the Management Committee. The Advisory Board include 9 women and 13 men; the Management Committee, 1 women and 4 men.

We have many prominent women campaigners and in addition to Jody Williams, three other women are ICBL Ambassadors. They include Margaret Arach Orech, a survivor from Uganda; Song Kosal, a young woman survivor from Cambodia, and Liz Bernstein, ICBL former coordinator. We always want to ensure spoke persons for the ICBL illustrate this balance.

We also work to ensure balanced representation of men, women, boys and girls in our communication materials.

The ICBL is working on a voluntary basis with campaigners, all men and women, who indicate their willingness to be associated with the Campaign because of their wish to help us promoting the Convention in their countries. Figures and facts of how we try to reflect the gender prospective in our activities have been integrated under each relevant sections of this report.

Gender and mine action

On Mine action, the Landmine Monitor reported that the gender issue is “a work in progress”. The Swiss Campaign’s study on Gender and Landmines from Concept to Practice, launched in June 2008 shows that: “There is a growing awareness within the mine action sector that including a gender perspective in its activities will not only allow an inclusive approach to gender equality, but also make mine action have greater and wider impact. Various mine action actors and stakeholders have developed and adapted gender policies resulting in fruitful and inspiring initiatives within different pillars of mine action. However improvements in terms of gender equality in one area of mine action are not necessarily being replicated to others, and there are still many gaps to fill.”¹ This study also showed that a number of all-female demining teams have been created, notably in Cambodia, Laos, Lebanon Sudan as well as recently in Somaliland.

We also have very few figures about Victim assistance in general, and specifically about gender in this field. Casualties’ figures by gender indicate that in 2007, among 5,426 casualties, 467 were female, which represents 8.6 % (in the same statistics, for 1,029 persons the gender is unknown...). For child casualties, the percentage is 15.14 %. If we just take into account the civilian casualties, the percentage of female rises up to about 16 %.

¹ Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines. Gender and Landmines from Concept to Practice. 2008.