

COMMIT TO COMPLETE

Completion Challenge for the Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty

Introduction

The Mine Ban Treaty's **Third Review Conference** (3RC), which will take place from 23 to 27 June in 2014 in Maputo, Mozambique, will mark another critical moment in the treaty's history. The Review Conference will take place 15 years after the treaty's entry into force and the First Meeting of States Parties in 1999, which was also held in Maputo. It will assess the progress made to date and provide a roadmap for the work ahead.

Inspired by Mozambique's example of how a heavily mine-affected country has effectively tackled its landmine contamination and is expected to complete its mine clearance in 2014, the ICBL sees completion as the most appropriate theme for the period in the lead-up to, during, and beyond the Review Conference.

The mine ban community has been known for being bold and progressive. Back in 1996, it was this community that took up the so-called Ottawa Challenge and adopted the Mine Ban Treaty within a year. Today, the ICBL is calling on this same community, with all its maturity, strength and experience, to take up another challenge—the **Completion Challenge**—to ensure that the work started several years ago is actually completed as soon as possible, and no later than 10 years after the Third Review Conference. We strongly believe that with renewed determination, sufficient resources and the use of good practices, **all current States Parties can complete their major Mine Ban Treaty obligations within 10 years of the Third Review Conference.**

The Third Review Conference in Maputo should therefore be seen as the starting point of a **Countdown to Completion** of the Mine Ban Treaty's primary obligations and should be accompanied by a genuine recommitment of efforts and resources by the international community in order to meet this challenge. By the end of the 10-year Countdown to Completion we expect to also celebrate having no new landmine victims in States Parties.

What is the Completion Challenge about?

With sufficient national commitment and resources, finishing the remaining work under the treaty is achievable and can be done relatively quickly.

We are therefore throwing this Completion Challenge at all states—to come to Maputo with a clear commitment **to complete their remaining specific treaty obligations**

(such as clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, or joining the treaty) **within a clearly defined, ambitious deadline**, and to make a **public commitment at the Maputo Conference** to meet this goal.

The ICBL is calling on the mine ban community, and in particular States Parties to:

1. Embrace the Completion Challenge

and prepare or update national plans ahead of the Maputo conference that factor in the latest methodologies and good practices to ensure the remaining treaty obligations are met as quickly as possible;

2. Make a Completion Commitment

at the Third Review Conference—commit publicly in Maputo to completing their remaining major treaty obligations within an ambitious timeframe, and no later than 10 years after the Third Review Conference;

3. Stay committed

to fulfilling their completion commitment until the work is done.

The Completion Challenge will require all States Parties with remaining major treaty obligations to assess how they can work better and harder in order to fulfill their obligations within a finite and ambitious timeframe. The timeframe may be one they have already announced, or a revised one based on a re-assessment of their work plans.¹ In either case, our challenge will require a number of states to review their current practices to ensure they are working in the most efficient and effective manner and that the remaining tasks can be finished in the shortest possible timeframe. **It is therefore a challenge to States Parties to step up their efforts until the work is complete.** For example, some states working towards their original or extended mine clearance deadline might need to significantly improve the methodologies they are using, increase national resources they are investing, or otherwise take steps to heighten their level of productivity in order to finish as quickly as possible.

What does "completion" mean?

The completion challenge is mainly targeted to States Parties as of the Third Review Conference, though some elements apply to all countries.

¹ Extended mine clearance deadlines granted at Meetings of States Parties remain compulsory and may not be revised outside the official Extension Request process, except in the case where a state wishes to commit to complete clearance before the extended deadline.



For stockpile destruction, it means when the State Party has destroyed all of its stocks of antipersonnel mines.

For clearance, it means when a State Party has made every effort to identify all mined areas and then has ensured that all mines in those areas are destroyed. As there is always a chance that unknown stocks or mined areas may be discovered after completion is announced, it is understood that those stockpiles or mined areas will be reported on and addressed as quickly as possible.

Victim assistance is not complete unless it is available for the lifetime of all victims, as needed. But States Parties may be said to have completed their Mine Ban Treaty obligations under Article 6.3 when they have ensured that they are adequately and sustainably meeting the needs and protecting the rights of landmine victims, including through broader frameworks such as those for development or disability.

Finally, the Mine Ban Treaty will not be “complete” until **the ban norm** is universalized and there is no more use of antipersonnel mines by any actors anywhere. In addition, all states that remain outside of the treaty should join as soon as possible.

What is a “completion partnership”?

Completion of the major Mine Ban Treaty obligations often relies on the provision of adequate **international cooperation and assistance**. In order to make the best possible use of such support, the ICBL calls on affected and donor states and other partners to build informal “**completion partnerships**.” Such partnerships will usually have a financial component, but in order to be effective, they should involve additional elements to build national ownership, jointly evaluate progress and challenges, and to ensure that completion has the active support of all relevant stakeholders. In other words, there should be a political commitment by both parties to work together towards completion in a collaborative and strategic manner.

What would a “completion commitment” look like?

The ICBL invites States Parties to come to Maputo with a completion commitment tailored to their remaining obligations. It should be a simple statement announcing which **obligation(s) they are working towards completing, and by when they commit to finishing**. If possible, the state could add a short description of what steps it will need to take towards completion, including changes in its approach if necessary to enable faster progress.

For example, a state may say:

On clearance: We commit to complete the clearance of all remaining mined areas by 2020. In order to do so, we will invest additional national resources and make better use of the latest land release methodologies.

On stockpile destruction: We commit to destroying our remaining stockpiles of antipersonnel mines by 2015. We

will ensure the necessary funding is in place and follow the destruction process carefully to make sure any technical or other issues are quickly addressed.

On victim assistance: We commit to give greater priority to victim assistance and improve the availability and accessibility of services in areas where victims live by 2017, in accordance with our national action plan. We will strengthen the sustainability of assistance by engaging relevant ministries such as Ministry of Social Affairs and by coordinating between relevant ministries to increase resources for victim assistance by 2015.

On universalization and the norm (from a state not party): We commit to never use, produce, acquire, or transfer antipersonnel mines and to destroy our stockpiles by 2016, and we will work towards accession by 2018.

What is the timeframe of the Completion Challenge?

The Completion Challenge under the ICBL slogan “Commit to Complete” will be launched **in the first week of December 2013** at the treaty’s 13th Meeting of States Parties and the First Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference. From December 2013 until the Review Conference in June 2014, all **States Parties should assess their plans so they can come to Maputo with a specific target date for completion of each remaining major treaty obligation in their country (their “completion commitment”).** Again, each date should be **as soon as possible and no later than 10 years after the Review Conference.** After the Maputo conference states will need to work as hard as they can to fulfill their completion pledge in the shortest time possible and by the self-identified target date thus living up to the challenge.



What is the role of ICBL?

As part of the global mobilization in the lead up to the Review Conference, the ICBL with its global network will be working closely with states and other key partners to ensure states are inspired to take up the Completion Challenge and work hard to review their plans and prepare their completion pledges.

For more information, please:

- Visit the ICBL and the Landmine Monitor websites: www.icbl.org and www.the-monitor.org
- Contact the ICBL members in your country
- Send any enquiries to Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer, ICBL Director (kasia@icblcmc.org); or to Firoz Ali-zada, ICBL Campaign Manager (firoz@icblcmc.org)



1997 Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate