

March 1st Action Alert - Country backgrounder

Making the Mine Ban Treaty Universal: Mission possible

Nepal

Mine Ban Treaty Status	Nepal has not joined the MBT yet
Stockpiles	3,000 mines reported in 2007
Contamination	Landmines, ERW, IEDs
Use	No. Mine use ceased in Nepal as a result of a code of conduct signed by government forces and Maoist insurgents in May 2006.
Production	No production in 2007
Casualties in 2007	104 (55 adults, 49 children)
Vote on UNGA resolution on the MBT	Abstained in 2008 and 2007. Absent in 2006, had voted in favour since 1997 (except in 2004 when it was again absent).
Reasons for not joining the treaty	Consolidation of peace process and new political structures is a precondition
Key recent developments	MPs and political leaders from across the political spectrum have repeatedly pledged support for accession.
Goals	Positive vote on UNGA resolution; accession

Ten years after the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), on 1 March 1999, we have no doubt that our goal of a mine free world can be achieved and should be pursued until it becomes a reality. Over the past years, the number of countries joining the treaty has continued to grow (from 71 in March 1999 to 156 in 2009), and many states still remaining outside the treaty are *de facto* already respecting its provisions.

We believe that there is no better way to celebrate the anniversary – and the upcoming Second Review Conference of the treaty, which will take place in Colombia in December 2009 – than by multiplying our efforts to bring on board the treaty more states, and encourage others to take positive steps in this direction. Join our global action on universalization and help us prove that this is “Mission Possible”!

Getting Nepal on Board: Mission Possible

Mine use ceased in Nepal as a result of a code of conduct signed by government forces and Maoist insurgents in May 2006. The ongoing peace process is facilitating the advancement of actions to address the mine problem including the creation of a National Steering Committee on Mine Action.

In January 2008, the Speaker of the Interim Legislative Parliament said, during a seminar organized by the Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines, that “there would be no debate about the mine ban and Nepal is ready to accede to the MBT.” MPs from across the political spectrum also pledged active support for accession.

Reasons for Nepal to ratify the MBT now

- ⇒ Accession would be consistent with the repeated statement of support for the MBT by the country’s main political actors;
- ⇒ The peace process offers a framework to address the mine issue and join the treaty;
- ⇒ The landmine issue has proved to be an important element in building confidence between conflicting parties and joining the MBT could further reinforce that;
- ⇒ Accession could facilitate access to international technological and financial assistance to advance mine clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance.
- ⇒ By adding its name to the list of countries that have renounced the use of antipersonnel mines forever, Nepal would contribute to the advancement of the humanitarian cause of a “mine-free world”