



Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World

29 November-4 December
2009



ICBL Report on Activities



"The vitality of the mine ban movement the partnership of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and governments and the International Committee of the Red Cross and other organizations -- never ceases to amaze me. So many new people and organizations continue to join the ICBL; work on the Mine Ban Treaty has been "mainstreamed", insitutionalized in governments. This dynamism continues to demonstrate that the Mine Ban Treaty was never just about pretty words and speeches such as those heard today. The mine ban movement has demonstrated that those involved have and continue to work hard to honor their commitments with serious implementation of and compliance with the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty."

**Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
and Founding Coordinator of the ICBL**

Cartagena, 3 December 2009

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The government of Germany	The Holy See
The government of Greece	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
The government of Ireland	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
The government of Luxembourg	United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

We especially would like to thank the government of Colombia, the government of Norway, the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention and the United Nations for their close cooperation with civil society in organizing the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (Colombian Campaign Against Landmines) as well as Colombian NGOs gathered under the Grupo de Trabajo de Ottawa 14 (Ottawa Working Group 14) for warmly welcoming the ICBL in Colombia and for contributing to the advancement of the Mine Ban Treaty.

We thank all those who, worldwide, are committed to take up the challenge of a world free of landmines. Our gratitude and admiration especially goes to survivor advocates for their strength, courage and tireless campaigning.

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OVERVIEW, ACTIVITIES, LOBBYING

page 4	Overview and Assessment
page 8	Activities
	Preparation
	Participation
	Side Events and Activities
	Media Work
page 19	Lobbying

page 23 **STATEMENTS**

International Cooperation and Assistance
Victim Assistance
Comments on Extension Requests
Clearing Mined Areas
Clearing Mined Areas (by Mine Clearance Operators)
Stockpile Destruction
Universalization
Introduction to the Stockpile Destruction Session
Survivors' Call to Action
Youth Declaration

page 45 **PRESS RELEASES**

Overview
Activities
Lobbying

Overview and Assessment of the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World

The ICBL's main objective for the Second Review Conference was for States Parties to rededicate themselves to the full universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. This goal was clearly achieved. Indeed, in the 2009 Cartagena Declaration, States Parties not only "reaffirm[ed their] commitment to ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and to achieving a world free of mines," but also proclaimed "we will reach this goal in our lifetime." States backed up these words by sending large numbers of delegates, many of them at a high level, and by making enthusiastic, forward-looking statements made throughout the week. Combined with the quality and quantity of side events and bilateral meetings throughout the week, it was clear that the international community remains firmly engaged in the pursuit of a mine-free world. The decisions on the five-year review, Cartagena Action Plan, and future meetings of the treaty also promoted a strong agenda that shows there is no intention to slow our common efforts.

The foundations for a successful Cartagena Summit were built over the course of 2009, and the ICBL played an active role in these preparations. ICBL campaigners and staff took part in all of the regional conferences leading up to the Summit, presenting our expectations for the Review

Conference and encouraging states to attend at the highest level. We sent letters to heads of government of all States Parties asking them to make a special effort to complete treaty obligations before the Summit so they could arrive in Cartagena with good news. We also asked them to use the



Ken Rutherford delivers the Survivor's Call to Action to an audience of high-level government representatives.

opportunity of the Second Review Conference to announce concrete, ambitious national goals for the coming years, including pledges of funding. States not party also received letters asking them to participate as observers and join the treaty without further delay. Under the leadership of Norway as president-elect of the Review Conference, the ICBL was given several opportunities to provide input on the official documents of the Summit. Our campaigners engaged with their governments at the national level throughout the year, supported by small grants and action alerts which provided them with key ICBL messages.

The Cartagena Summit brought together 108 States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, from all regions, including over 40 states represented at the high level. Twenty states not party, including one signatory, also participated. In addition, representatives of 20 international organizations and

institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations joined the Summit, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the ICBL.

The ICBL delegation to the Cartagena Summit comprised 419 people from 73 countries, including 193 women and 226 men. Of the total, 171 campaigners were from Colombia. This was the largest ICBL delegation to a landmine meeting ever, demonstrating civil society's strong continued commitment to addressing all aspects of the landmine problem. Steve Goose, Director of the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch and member of the ICBL Management Committee, led the delegation.

In the plenary sessions – both the working meetings and the high-level segments, the ICBL found that the tone of the meeting was upbeat and enthusiastic. Speakers took note of

accomplishments and challenges, but also demonstrated their desire to see sustained efforts by all until the mine scourge is eliminated. Some of the key themes emphasized during the Summit included improving accessibility and availability of victim assistance (VA), the difficulties states continue to face in quantifying and clearing mine contamination, and increasing national and international resources for treaty implementation. The emphasis placed on victim assistance during the course of the week was a reflection of hard work done by campaigners on VA to raise the profile of the issue in both the context of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The Summit produced some excellent news. Four States Parties (Albania, Greece, Rwanda and Zambia) declared that they had finished their mine clearance obligation, and another with ambiguous status (Namibia) clarified

that it was also now in compliance with Article 5, bringing the total number of states that have cleared all mined areas to 16. On the question of international cooperation and assistance, only a handful of states made concrete pledges of funding, though several more donor states spoke in general terms about future contributions, and a few spoke of focusing in particular on funding for victim assistance. Several mine-affected states spoke in favor of Zambia's proposal for a new Standing Committee on resources to focus attention on the continued need for assistance in order for them to be able to meet their treaty obligations. Such a Standing Committee could also be used to share ideas on improving efficiency in the use of resources and encouraging cooperation among mine-affected states.

Campaigners from Latin America plan their lobbying activities for the week.

5 OVERVIEW ASSESSMENT



Four countries were granted extensions to their mine clearance deadlines in a process that made clear once again that the requests are not receiving rubber-stamped approvals. The detailed comments prepared by the Analyzing Group of States Parties are crucial to the credibility of the process, even if states got more years than perhaps needed. Several more states said they were in danger of failing to clear contaminated areas by their deadlines, and many that received extensions just one year ago are not on track to meet their planned demining targets.

Several landmine survivors and longtime ICBL campaigners led off the session on victim assistance, bringing out various challenges through their own experiences such as access to education, basic rights of victims and their inclusion in policymaking, and commitment for national and international funding. The session showed that much has been learned about planning and coordinating victim assistance work, including the need to integrate such efforts into the disability and development frameworks and to include survivors and other persons with disabilities in all stages of planning and implementation. At the same time, the speakers highlighted large gaps that remain in providing timely assistance to all in need, especially in the field of economic inclusion and in reaching communities in remote areas.

The most serious setbacks on implementation were in the area of stockpile destruction. Ukraine stated it will not only miss its upcoming stockpile destruction deadline, but could need another five years to complete it, which is of grave concern for the treaty. In addition, the three states that already missed their stockpile destruction deadlines (Belarus, Greece, and Turkey) failed to set a new, firm deadline for completion of their stockpile destruction.

The discussion on other matters of importance for the treaty was disappointingly sparse. There were only two state interventions on matters of interpretation (both on Article 2), and a few countries noted that they had reduced the number of mines retained for training under Article 3. There was also no progress reported on national implementation measures, though dozens of States Parties have yet to fulfill this obligation. Only a few States Parties mentioned the cases of non-compliance facing the treaty, though the Review took note of efforts of past Meeting of States Parties presidents to work with concerned States Parties on resolving allegations of use, and the Cartagena Declaration emphasized that "Compliance makes a difference."

On the universalization front, the ICBL was extremely disappointed to see no new states join the treaty, leaving the number of States Parties stagnant since 2007. On the other

hand, the United States attended the Review Conference, marking the first time it has participated as an observer in a meeting of the Mine Ban Treaty. Several other states not party to the treaty briefed the Summit on steps they were taking to respect the provisions of the treaty even if they were not yet ready to accede.

The Review Conference produced three excellent documents: the Cartagena Declaration, the Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention 2005-2009, and the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014. The Cartagena Declaration, subtitled "A shared commitment for a mine-free world," urged states to strengthen their efforts to tackle remaining challenges and, borrowing a phrase from the ICBL, optimistically noted that "a mine free world is possible." The five-year Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention provided a comprehensive, detailed overview of accomplishments and remaining challenges on the way to full universalization and implementation of the treaty. Finally, States Parties agreed to an ambitious five year action plan that, if translated into concrete steps, will take us much closer to our goal of a world without mines.

States Parties also decided to continue meeting along the same schedule as in past years, again showing that it was not time to slow the pace. States agreed to keep the schedule flexible to allow for changes in light



Sylvie Brigot, Steve Goose and Jody Williams, representing the ICBL, discuss Mine Ban Treaty achievements and challenges with Colombian Vice-President Francisco Santos.

of new circumstances in future years, especially given a desire to coordinate more closely with other international instruments such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The strong and engaged ICBL delegation demonstrated our own continuing commitment to the Mine Ban Treaty over the long run. The ICBL's impact could be felt throughout the week as our priorities were reflected in official documents, delegations' statements, and numerous side events. Long-time campaigners were recognized by the President through requests to make special interventions on

different thematic areas. Survivors were especially active in Cartagena, making numerous interventions in the parallel program on victim assistance, lobbying government delegates from States Parties and states not party alike, and presenting a powerful Survivor Call to Action to the high-level segment. Young campaigners participating in an international youth forum inspired Summit participants with a moving Youth Declaration presented before the closing ceremony. Overall, the ICBL showed that 17 years after launching the campaign to ban landmines and 10 years after the treaty's entry into force, we still have the capacity to

bring the voices of civil society to the conference room and to remind people in human terms why our work is so crucial.

Ultimately, the Cartagena Summit will be judged not just by what happened at the meeting, but how the various decisions and commitments are translated into actions and accomplishments in the coming years. The ICBL stands ready to work closely with states and other interested actors to make sure the potential of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Second Review Conference is not just realized, but exceeded.

Activities at the Cartagena Summit

Civil society activities building momentum for the Cartagena Summit started early in the year with the 1 March celebrations, and continued at the five regional workshops. A fruitful cooperation with local partners in Colombia was ensured throughout the year. At the Summit, civil society was highly visible through side events, exhibitions, the Youth Leaders Forum, and media work. Lobbying coordination was ensured through campaign briefings and regional group meetings.

tools to this end (calls to action, key messages, factsheets, sample press releases, powerpoint presentation, logo and slogan, etc.) The slogan was also used in all ICBL communication and advocacy materials throughout the year, and was soon adopted as a motto by other Summit participants, to the extent that the President of the Summit also used it during the closing ceremony on 4 December. ICBL staff also delivered speeches at public & media events launching the road to Cartagena, including the official launch on 2 March 2009 in Geneva in presence of the Vice-President of Colombia and the

8 ACTIVITIES

Preparation

Kick-starting the year

Early in the year, mobilization around the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the treaty provided an opportunity to kick-start the countdown to Cartagena. A series of advocacy and awareness-raising events took place around 1 March 2009: under the slogan A Mine-Free World: Mission Possible, campaigners in over 65 countries organized roundtables, press briefings, street actions, photo exhibitions and art installations, film screenings, marches, rallies, workshops, petitions, TV and radio shows to bring the world's attention the scourge of landmines and call for a mine-free world. The ICBL provided a package of advocacy

Jesús Martínez from Fundación Red de Sobrevivientes and Sylvie Brigot from the ICBL at a press briefing in Managua, Nicaragua, starting the countdown to Cartagena in late February 2009.



In Geneva in May 2009, ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth invites governments to come prepared to the Cartagena Summit.



President-Designate of the Cartagena Summit. In the same week, the ICBL mobilized its network on a few target countries to urge them to join the treaty without delay (Bahrain, Cuba, Nepal, Poland, USA) and to ask to set a good example of implementation (Colombia), by sending letters to decision-makers and holding meetings at the target countries' diplomatic missions around the world. This global mobilization generated significant national and international media attention and coverage, and raised the interest and engagement of governments, international agencies and civil society alike.

Regional workshops

The ICBL took part in Summit preparation through its active contribution to regional workshops organized by States Parties to the treaty and the Implementation Support Unit, with support from the European Union. The five workshops brought together government representatives from each region including many states not party; international organizations active on the landmine issue; the International Committee of the Red Cross; ICBL experts and campaigners including mine survivors, who made the voice of civil society heard. The workshops took place in Managua (Nicaragua)

on 24-26 February; Bangkok (Thailand) on 31 March-3 April; Dushanbe (Tajikistan) on 6-8 July, Pretoria (South Africa) on 9-11 September and Tirana (Albania) on 7-9 October. These events also provided an opportunity for the ICBL to engage with the media in collaboration with the local campaign, thus contributing to building momentum towards the Summit.

Local campaign partnerships

The ICBL worked in close cooperation with its Colombian partners in the lead-up to the Summit, including the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines and several other ICBL members and non-governmental organizations working on the landmine issue at the national level. From September 2009, an ICBL staff member was based in Colombia to work on three essential aspects of the preparations: advocacy (e.g. meeting with local partners as well as the Colombian government to discuss the key issues of humanitarian demining in the country and the upcoming landmine impact survey), campaign coordination (e.g. encouraging national and local ICBL members to identify clear objectives and coherent messages for the Summit, preparing the side event on Latin America), and logistics.

Global partnerships and input into official documents

Throughout the year, the ICBL also worked in partnership with the Presidency of the Summit, the treaty's Implementation Support Unit, the office of the President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, the host country, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations, and other key partners. In addition to working with these partners on an ongoing basis, ICBL representatives presented the campaign's views at the two official preparatory meetings held in May and September, and the two informal preparatory meetings held in March and November. ICBL experts, including mine survivors, also provided detailed comments on the content of the official Summit documents to ensure they would reflect the field reality and ICBL expectations to the extent feasible: the Cartagena Action Plan, the Declaration, and the Review of the Status and Operation of the Convention.

Final countdown

On 29 September, the ICBL launched a 2-month global call to action under the slogan: Come, Share, Commit, and Care! The call's aim was to mobilize campaigners around the world to engage with their governments to ensure as many country leaders and decision-makers as possible would participate actively in the Summit. In the frame of the call, campaigners from dozens of countries held meetings with their government representatives, sent letters, worked

with the media, organized national releases of Landmine Monitor Report 2009 and held other public actions. In particular, they urged their governments to:

come: participate in the Summit at the highest level possible: Head of State/Government, State Secretary, or ministerial level;

share: announce in Cartagena significant recent accomplishments made on any of the treaty obligations or towards joining the treaty;

commit: arrive in Cartagena with a pledge to undertake one or more actions in the coming years to move toward fulfilling specific treaty obligations or joining the treaty, or

supporting other states in their efforts to do so;

care: stay passionate and fully committed to the treaty until the promise of a mine-free world becomes a reality.

In their endeavors, ICBL campaigners cooperated with diplomatic missions of partner countries like Norway, Canada, Switzerland, with UN agencies, the Red Cross / Red Crescent societies and civil society organizations. Answering a need for practical information in many languages, the ICBL produced a brief memo on registration and participation for government delegates.

The Advisory Board of the ICBL, 22 organizations from across the world that contribute to the ICBL activities and planning by reflecting membership issues and opinions.



Paul Hannon from Mines Action Canada encourages campaigners to use Landmine Monitor facts and figures to support their advocacy work.

Monitoring and research

The ICBL's eleventh Landmine Monitor Report was released globally in Geneva on 12 November, during a well-attended press conference hosted at the United Nations' Palais des Nations. The 2009 edition reports on antipersonnel mine ban policy, demining, casualties, risk education, victim assistance, and support for mine action in every country in the world. It also includes a special ten-year review of progress since the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty in 1999. National releases and events also took place in 25 countries. A regional release attended by local and international media as well as local non-governmental organizations and academics, took place in Bogotá (Colombia) on 25 November to set the stage for the upcoming Summit. The major global findings were also presented to government delegates and other members of the mine ban community at a lunchtime briefing on the first day of the Summit.

In addition, ICBL staff and many campaigners contributed in 2009 to Handicap International's report *Voices from the Ground*, which scrutinizes ten years of victim assistance under the Mine Ban Treaty in some of the countries with the highest number of survivors, and provides an opportunity for the voices of survivors, their families and communities to be heard by decision-makers.

Participation

The ICBL delegation to the Cartagena Summit comprised 419 people from 73 countries, including 193 women and 226 men. Of the total, 171 campaigners were from Colombia. This was the largest ICBL delegation to a landmine meeting ever, demonstrating civil society's strong continued commitment to addressing all aspects of the landmine problem. Steve Goose, Director of the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch and member of the ICBL Management Committee, led the delegation.

Four ICBL Ambassadors were present: Nobel Peace laureate Jody Williams, Cambodian mine survivors Tun Channareth and Song Kosal, and Ugandan mine survivor Margaret Arach Orech. In addition to holding one-on-one meetings with government representatives, the ICBL Ambassadors officially took the floor on several occasions: Song Kosal addressed the opening ceremony with her personal message as a survivor, Margaret Arach Orech participated to the delivery of the Survivors' Call to Action, and Jody Williams addressed the opening of the high-level segment, speaking about the enduring vitality of the partnerships between governments and civil society in the continued success of the MBT, and reminding all that "pretty" conference speeches had to be followed with concrete actions.



During the thematic sessions, ICBL members delivered statements on universalization and on all key aspects of Mine Ban Treaty implementation: international cooperation and assistance, victim assistance, mine clearance and stockpile destruction. Three mine survivors read the Survivors' Call to Action, delivering also a powerful visual message, surrounded on stage by fellow survivors and campaigners. The text covered concrete points of action to improve victim assistance and called on all to join the Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Convention on Cluster Munitions. A copy was presented to the President of the Summit. At the closing of the Summit, participants to the Youth Leaders Forum delivered the Youth Declaration to the Conference.

Campaigners from the ICBL and Cluster Munition Coalition also took the opportunity provided by the Summit to promote the Convention on Cluster Munitions: in one-on-one meetings, at the special event Rumble in Cartagena (see page 16), during a lunchtime briefing in a packed room, and in media materials.

Side Events and Activities

Victim assistance preparatory workshop

Campaigners' time in Cartagena was put to good use way before the official opening of the meeting, with a preparatory workshop on victim assistance being held on Friday 27 November. Bringing together over 60 campaigners, experts and survivors, the one-day gathering aimed at confirming key messages for the Summit, getting approval on the Survivors' Call to Action drafted earlier, and identifying post-Cartagena priorities (coordination, accessibility, capacity building, economic inclusion, funding, and inclusion of the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities in advocacy activities.) Participants were briefed about their role in the different Summit events, and received copies of the brand new edition of the ICBL booklet of practical campaigning tips *So You Want to Advocate for Victim Assistance?*

Campaign meetings

Lobbying coordination started several months before the Summit, with a series of emails to the network and individual follow-up, and culminated in a half-day orientation session held in Cartagena on the eve of the Summit. The session brought together national campaigners, ICBL Ambassadors, youth delegates, advisory board and management committee members, as well as all the ICBL and Cluster Munition Coalition

staff. It aimed at reviewing key messages for governments and the media, confirming the work plan for the week, and establishing the division into regional groups for lobbying coordination. Part of the session was also dedicated to running through all logistical aspects of the conference as well as security measures. In addition newcomers participated in a tailored introduction briefing, and Advisory Board members met to review the year and prepare for the week.

During the Summit, campaign briefings were held every morning to report back on bilateral meetings with government delegations, run through the agenda of the day, provide updates on media work and share announcements. Campaigners also met daily in regional and sub-regional

Right: Youth Leaders Forum participants gathered on stage for the closing ceremony.

groups to strategize on lobbying, tailor their messages and divide-up the work to ensure maximal impact.

After the closing of the Summit, campaigners gathered again for a day of reflection and exchanges of views on the future of the ICBL and the Cluster Munition Coalition, where the results of the consultations held in both networks throughout the year were presented.

Mine survivors and victim assistance experts strategize on how to ensure the Cartagena Action Plan delivers on its promises.





Youth Leaders Forum

Held from 30 November-4 December at the same venue as the Cartagena Summit, the Youth Leaders Forum (YLF) engaged 14 young women and 21 young men from 23 countries in an intensive program. Organized by ICBL member Mines Action Canada, the YLF was structured as a professional leadership development opportunity, for young leaders already active in their communities, to make tangible contributions to achieving a mine-free and cluster munitions-free world in their lifetime. The program included skills-building sessions led by seasoned campaigners on topics such as fundraising and grant management, media relations, volunteer management, and lobbying and advocacy strategies.

Youth worked together in small thematic groups to develop specific and measurable action steps for the next two years to advance the goals of the ICBL and the Cluster Munition Coalition globally, as well as

those of national campaigns. Youth delegates also had opportunities to participate in active campaigning throughout the Summit, such as attending daily campaign briefing meetings, shadowing experienced campaigners for lobbying meetings with government delegations, and observing official proceedings. The final product of the YLF was the 2009 Cartagena Youth Action Plan that will form the basis of advocacy and implementation work of the delegates for 2010-2011. The President-Designate of the Summit invited two young delegates from Afghanistan and France to give the final statement of the Summit: the thirty-five participants filled the stage at the closing ceremony while their two colleagues delivered the Youth Declaration to the Conference.

Exhibitions

The ICBL and its members set up various photo exhibitions about the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war, with the aim of

bringing to the Summit the reality of mine-affected communities worldwide. Large-format photographs of survivors from 13 countries in their daily activities, by Italian photographer Giovanni Diffidenti, were displayed in one of the busiest areas of the Convention Center. The exhibition was unveiled by Jody Williams in front of the media and in presence of Mr Diffidenti on the first day of the Summit. The Mines Advisory Group presented Sean Sutton's exhibition *Surviving the Peace*, revealing how war continues to shape lives even after ceasefires. Action on Armed Violence (formerly Landmine Action UK), the Danish Demining Group, Geneva Call and the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines also presented exhibitions. Photos depicting the long rehabilitation process of mine survivors were also displayed throughout the old town of Cartagena by the GTO14 (the group of Colombian NGOs working jointly on the Summit), as a way to engage locals and visitors on the mine issue as well.

Side events, field trips and socio-cultural events

A rich program of side events organized by the ICBL contributed to shedding light on a variety of aspects of the mine problem. All events were open to all conference participants, including the media. The program provided participants with opportunities for in-depth, technical discussions relevant to the advanced implementation stage of a ten years old treaty, but also with emotion-packed and exciting experiences such as diving with mine survivors off the coast of Cartagena or joining in a wheelchair rugby match alongside international players.

OVERCOMING VICTIMHOOD. Hosted by Survivor Corps and the Centro Integral de Rehabilitación de Colombia (CIREC). This roundtable discussion featured survivors, experts and policy makers discussing the theme of overcoming victimhood. Experiences from around the world were shared with special attention given to the Colombian context, key issues identified, and potential future actions proposed.

GOOD PRACTICES IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION. Hosted by Handicap International. Aimed to sensitise practitioners, NGOs, diplomats and funding agencies on good practices and lessons learned on socio-economic inclusion, and to initiate active partnership among participants. Two case studies were presented, followed by an active discussion on

key issues requiring further attention: a rights-based approach to inclusive development and, with regards to Latin America, inclusion of ethnic minorities and indigenous groups.

GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN GENDER SENSITIVE MINE ACTION PROJECTS. Hosted by the UN Mine Action Team, the ICBL and the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines. Focused on practical examples illustrating how gender mainstreaming benefits mine action: UN field practitioners provided operational and inter-agency coordination perspectives while NGOs provided an implementing perspective. A lively discussion considered gains and challenges in advancing the gender dimension of mine action.

SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES IN THE CARE AND REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG VICTIMS OF LANDMINES IN COLOMBIA. Hosted by the Centro Integral de Rehabilitación de Colombia (CIREC) and Religions for Peace. Brought together survivors, representatives of diverse religious communities and supportive governments to explore the connection between religions and assistance to persons with disabilities. Participants explored existing programs in several countries, and identified avenues for action including provision of counseling and spiritual support, ensuring accessible places of worship, promoting social inclusion and being a bridge to legal actors.

BRIEFING ON THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS. Hosted by the Cluster Munition Coalition, Colombia and the Lao PDR. This side event gave an update to delegations on global efforts to promote the swift entry into force and universal adherence to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions. States were invited to provide an update on their efforts to sign, ratify or take national steps to implement the Convention. The Cluster Munition Coalition, the UN and the ICRC also provided an update on their work on the Convention.

THE USA AND LANDMINES. Hosted by the US Campaign to Ban Landmines. Key USCBL experts discussed the status of US policy on antipersonnel mines, including actions that can be taken to urge the Obama Administration to join the Mine Ban Treaty. Government delegates from the US took questions from the panelists and participants, and reiterated their policy position.

ENSURING ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. Hosted by Handicap International and Christoffel Blindenmission. Introduced the initiative «Making it Work: From good practice to good policy», which aims at collecting data and developing advocacy tools for persons with disabilities, and sharing information on good practices to develop effective public policies from the ground up.



Mine survivors and members of mine-affected communities shared their stories and hopes with Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams and Colombian pop star Juanes, well-known for his social activism.

measures to be taken towards full implementation of the treaty in Latin America, in the framework of the Cartagena Action Plan. Measures discussed included field actions as well as policy recommendations on humanitarian demining, victim assistance and transparency.

INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES. Hosted by the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines and Moviment per la Pau. Based on their own lessons learned, both organizations shared strategies and methodologies to improve the involvement of young people in human rights campaigns.

LAND RELEASE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF IMAS 8.20-22. Hosted by Norwegian People's Aid. Brought together mine action operators, donors, delegates from affected countries and other stakeholders, to discuss a renewed ownership of the land release agenda, national authorities' responsibility to implement the new international mine action standards (IMAS), survey techniques, and efficient and effective use of mine action resources. Participants left with a strong sense of what is needed from all actors to have the IMAS translated into quality national policies and standards.

UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE OTTAWA AND OSLO CONVENTIONS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION. Hosted by Japan and the Japanese Campaign to Ban Landmines. Aimed to share experiences and lessons learned from promoting the universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty in the Asia Pacific region and to work towards further promotion of the Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: 10 YEARS OF MINE ACTION. Hosted by Protection and the ICBL. Discussed achievements, challenges, lessons learned, opportunities and the future of mine action from a regional perspective, which was much appreciated by participants.

PRESENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT INTEGRAL MINE ACTION IN COLOMBIA. Hosted by Geneva Call. Further to a conference held in Bogotá in the summer, which brought together representatives from national

authorities, international organizations and affected communities from South-Eastern Colombia, this side event discussed how to respond to mine action needs in inhabited conflict zones, focusing especially on the indigenous and afro-Colombian communities.

ALL THE VOICES. Hosted by Fundación Mi Sangre. Colombian singer Juanes lead an open discussion with Colombian survivors about their stories of life and hope. Survivors presented many concrete suggestions for improving assistance to victims through their personal stories, and were joined on the stage by Jody Williams towards the end of the meeting, who supported their calls and praised Juanes for his engagement.

PERSPECTIVE FOR A LATIN AMERICA FREE OF LANDMINES: NEXT STEPS. Hosted by various ICBL Latin American members. Identified practical

VISITA DE RECONOCIMIENTO EN EL CONTEXTO DE LAS VÍCTIMAS. Hosted by Handicap International. Delegates were invited to talk with Colombian survivors and learn about the cultural history and the evolution of the internal conflict in Montes de Maria. They visited the Hospital Nuestra Señora del Carmen and discussed the role of the institutions in the rehabilitation of landmine survivors. Mine risk education initiatives were also presented.

SEMBRARTE EN PORTONAITO. Hosted by CIREC. Participants were invited to experiment various activities composing the psychosocial rehabilitation process of children and young people with disabilities. They had the opportunity to sail, kayak, rappel, watch the sea or simply have a powerful conversation with young survivors.

DIVE WITH US! Hosted by CIREC. Participants joined landmine survivors in a day of diving at Islas del Rosario. This innovative activity for the psychosocial rehabilitation of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities puts them in a completely new environment, provides them tools for their life, and also the likelihood of changing their paradigm regarding their disability.

RUMBLE IN CARTAGENA - QUAD RUGBY MATCH. Hosted by the ICBL, CMC, Survivor Corps and Fundación Arcangeles. December 3 marks the anniversary of the signing of both



Rumble in Cartagena, a raucous and heart-warming evening, with cheers on all sides and a powerful example of sport as a form of social inclusion for persons with disabilities.

the Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions, as well as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. On the eve of this day, a celebratory event was held that wove a memorable wheelchair rugby game with words by key figures in promoting victim assistance and the rights of persons with disabilities. Spectators, including Colombian Vice-President Francisco Santos and Prince Mired of Jordan, also had the chance to have a hands-on experience with quad rugby. The event ended with a cocktail and live music.

STAR OF HOPE. Hosted by CIREC and GTO14. A gala evening rewarding persons with disabilities who have shown great achievements, as well as organizations working on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. The ICBL received an award for its tireless work on the landmine issue.

FILM COMPETITION. Hosted by Handicap International and GTO14. Throughout the week, Latin-American videos on the landmine issue were screened in various indoor and outdoor locations of Cartagena's old town. The competition winners were announced on 3 December.



Media Work

The Cartagena Summit presented a series of characteristics that were leveraged on to raise media interest and ensure coverage of the ICBL messages. The five-year perspective provided an opportunity to do a retrospective and present analysis and trends; the location was an interesting example of the special challenges posed to mine action by ongoing conflict situations; and the broad and varied participation by civil society from dozens of countries, including mine survivors, mine action experts, and well-known figures such as Nobel Peace laureate Jody Williams and Latin-American pop star

Juanes, provided a great opportunity to diversify the offer of interviewees and angles, tailoring it to the outlets' needs and preferences.

Raising the media profile of the landmine issue and building-up expectation for the Cartagena Summit started as early as 1 March 2009, when campaigners worldwide kick-started the year with events in over 65 countries and areas, including media outreach. Template press releases and a set of media materials were provided to national campaigns on this occasion as well as for each of the five regional workshops organized in the lead-up to the Summit, where media work was carried by the ICBL staff and local campaigns. Press releases are available at www.icbl.org/cartagenasummit. The global release of Landmine Monitor took place in Geneva in mid-November and acted as a powerful media hook. It was followed by a series of national release events organized by campaigners, which provided good opportunities to engage with the media, culminating with the regional Latin-American release event and press conference held in Bogotá on 25 November to set the scene for the Summit. During a governmental press briefing just before the Summit's opening, the Obama administration indicated the U.S. would not join the Mine Ban Treaty. The ICBL and its members immediately reacted - press releases were issued and many interviews were given - and this unexpected event generated extensive coverage

of ICBL messages in dozens of countries. Responding to civil society's outcry, the U.S. declared a few hours later that the review of its policy on landmines was still underway.

Preparations for the Summit and media work in Cartagena entailed close coordination with the Implementation Support Unit, local ICBL members and other partners from the mine ban community. All through the Summit, special emphasis was put on encouraging and supporting media outreach by campaigners themselves, with template media tools, phones, faxes, computers and tailored individual support made available. The enthusiasm and dedication of campaigners present in Cartagena was unprecedented, with the media office buzzing with animation from dawn till dusk.

Media work during the Summit included the dissemination of a full media kit in English and Spanish, participation in the opening press conference, four press releases including one prepared jointly with the Cluster Munition Coalition, Fundación Arcangeles and Survivor Corps, participation in daily press briefings, and promotion of side events. Among those, the Rumble in Cartagena evening was especially successful -- famous faces of the ICBL and CMC playing wheelchair rugby alongside the Colombian Vice-President ended up on the cover page of the country's largest newspaper.

The media team was led by ICBL and Mines Action Canada staff members, with support by campaigners from the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines as well as young apprentices from Afghanistan and Spain. ICBL Ambassadors, Landmine Monitor experts, mine and cluster munition survivors and campaigners gave countless interviews in a variety of languages, contributing to profiling the Cartagena Summit as a truly international event.

Six main coverage goals outlined before the Summit were fulfilled as follows:

1. Coverage referring to the ICBL or using Landmine Monitor facts and figures is generated in every country where there is a national campaign (83 countries).

Coverage was generated in 67 countries including some where the ICBL does not have a national campaign. There is most probably coverage in additional countries but it is not possible to conduct searches in all languages. Many global or regional media houses also covered the Summit, such as VOA, the BBC, etc., broadcasting the news to entire regions or continents.

2. Each international media house/wire covers a story/photo opportunity, including Al Jazeera, Ansa, BBC, CNN, RFI, Voice of America, Agence France Presse, Associated Press, Reuters, EFE, Xinhua, IRIN. *All but one carried stories, and many carried multiple stories.*

3. The ICBL generates media coverage in each UN language: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese. *Coverage was generated in all six languages as well as many others such as Albanian, Dari, Swahili or Thai.*

4. The ICBL generates media coverage in donor countries regarding the need for further financial commitments in Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain.

Coverage was generated in all those countries, although not always related to financial commitments.

5. The ICBL generates media coverage in 13 of the 26 States Parties with the highest number of survivors (VA26); the universalization targets identified in early 2009: Mongolia, Nepal, Poland and USA; and the States Parties requesting a mine clearance deadline extension: Argentina, Cambodia, Tajikistan and Uganda. *Coverage was generated in 17 of the VA26, in all universalization target countries except Mongolia, and in all States Parties requesting a clearance deadline extension.*

6. The ICBL and its Colombian members have their messages covered in Colombian media – mainstream to the extent possible plus alternative/community outlets – making the voice of civil society heard. *Extensive coverage was generated in Colombia, including coverage of civil society messages in mainstream media such as national and regional*

Lobbying at the Cartagena Summit

The ICBL delegates engaged with governments present at the Summit throughout the week to discuss specific issues of implementation or universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty and to advocate for further progress, and in particular for the full implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan.

The main goals for lobbying at the Summit were the following:

- ICBL representatives meet and engage constructively with every government present at the Summit
- ICBL campaigners and experts discuss in-depth progress, challenges, and next actions to get the job done in the coming years, with

representatives of priority countries for implementation and universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty.

- ICBL representatives provide governments with relevant expertise and materials, including Landmine Monitor Report 2009, ICBL statements and policy papers, and other documents.

To ensure lobbying efforts were well coordinated and effective, a series of strategy and information-sharing meetings were organized. See above, Campaign meetings, page 12. Besides numerous informal discussions held at different occasions throughout the week, the ICBL representatives held formal meetings with 95 out of 125 governments present in Cartagena, including 78 States Parties and 18 states not party, including one signatory to the Mine Ban Treaty. Next to lobbying carried out by the ICBL, the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) representatives present in Cartagena engaged the governments on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to advocate for further signatures, ratifications, and implementation steps by concerned states. Where appropriate, the ICBL and CMC representatives held joint lobbying meetings with relevant governments to discuss issues related to both conventions.

In their lobbying meetings, the ICBL representatives often used findings from Landmine Monitor Report 2009, other reports, and recent national developments as a starting point for their discussions, most of which focused on the need for effective and swift implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan in the coming years.

Bekele Gonfa from Survivor Corps Ethiopia and Denise Coghlan from the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions discuss with representatives of Ethiopia



Bilateral meetings with States Parties

In meetings with States Parties, ICBL representatives raised and discussed thoroughly all aspects of Mine Ban Treaty implementation, in particular: need for more progress on implementation of victim assistance on the ground and inclusion of survivors; better planning and coordination, and more national ownership of mine action programs, especially in countries that have been granted extension for their mine clearance obligations and those that plan to request one in the future; stronger commitment and more resources dedicated to complete stockpile destruction by States Parties that have missed their deadline or have an upcoming one; the need to commit funding to mine action and victim assistance for the next five years; as well as issues related to transparency reporting, retention of mines for training and development, and national legislation.



Prasanna Rajiv Kuruppu from the Sri Lankan arm of the ICBL discusses accession to the Mine Ban Treaty with Steve Costner from the U.S. State Department.

ICBL meetings with States Parties (78):	Cambodia (high level)	Germany	Namibia	Sudan (high level)
Afghanistan (high level)	Cameroon	Ghana	Netherlands	Sweden (high level)
Albania	Canada (high level)	Guatemala (high level)	New Zealand (high level)	Switzerland (high level)
Algeria	Chad	Guinea-Bissau (high level)	Nicaragua	Tajikistan (high level)
Angola (high level)	Chile (high level)	Iraq	Niger	Tanzania
Argentina	Colombia (high level)	Italy (high level)	Nigeria	Thailand (high level)
Australia (high level)	Comoros	Japan	Norway (high level)	Tunisia
Austria (high level)	Congo, D.R. (high level)	Jordan (high level)	Palau	Uganda (high level)
Belarus	Congo, Republic of (high level)	Kenya	Panama (high level)	Ukraine
Belgium (high level)	Costa Rica	Kiribati	Paraguay (high level)	United Kingdom
Benin	Cote d'Ivoire	Kuwait	Peru (high level)	Uruguay
Bolivia	Croatia	Malawi	Philippines	Vanuatu
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Ecuador	Malaysia (high level)	Portugal (high level)	Vietnam
Brazil	El Salvador (high level)	Mauritania	Qatar	Yemen
Bulgaria:	Ethiopia	Mexico	Serbia	Zambia
Burundi (high level)	Gambia	Mozambique (high level)	Slovenia (high level)	Zimbabwe
			Spain (high level)	

Bilateral meetings with states not party

In meetings with states not party, the ICBL delegates discussed the challenges to and progress made towards accession, and in particular plans and timeline for accession/ ratification and adoption of interim measures by states that are not ready to join yet, including voting in favor of the annual U.N. General Assembly resolution on the treaty, submitting a voluntary transparency report, as well as national moratoria on use, export and production, and plans for stockpile destruction, clearance and victim assistance.

High level meetings

On 3 and 4 December, ICBL delegates met bilaterally with high level government representatives to strengthen the partnership between the civil society and government at the national level, and to discuss the next steps towards full implementation or accession. The ICBL met with high level representatives of the following countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Jordan, Lao PDR,

Malaysia, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda.

On 3 December, the ICBL organized a special event for high level representatives, to discuss the challenges still ahead on the road to a mine-free world, as well as ways to jointly pursue the full universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

ICBL meetings with
states not party (18):

Bahrain
China
Cuba
Egypt
Georgia
India
Lao PDR (high level)
Lebanon
Mongolia
Morocco
Nepal (high level)
Poland
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Sri Lanka
USA
Vietnam

**ICBL Ambassadors Song Kosal
and Tun Channareth, mine
survivors from Cambodia,
invited all high-level
representatives to ensure
commitments made in
Cartagena would turn into
real progress on the ground.**



A small group of high-profile ICBL members represented the various facets of our diverse campaign, including Nobel Peace laureate Jody Williams; Margaret Arach Orech, ICBL Ambassador and landmine survivor; Steve Goose, ICBL Head of Delegation; as well as Mystical Rose Laguna, from the Youth Leaders Forum. They all presented their views and hopes for the future of the treaty. Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium shared her personal commitment to the treaty and her wish to see Belgium pursuing its leadership role on victim assistance. Soraya Paikan, Deputy Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled of Afghanistan shared the difficulties she faces in trying to improve the life of survivors, but reaffirmed the commitment of Afghanistan towards survivors. Arian Starova, Deputy Minister of Defense of Albania declared Albania was honored and ready to be designated as President of the 10 MSP, and would take their responsibilities very seriously. Bob McMullan, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance of Australia emphasized the need to find ways to support affected states on a multi-year basis, to ensure more sustainability, hence results, and said Australia would continue working on universalization in Asia. Peter Kent, Canadian Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) reaffirmed the Canadian leadership against landmines and shared his pride to see such a momentum around the Mine Ban Treaty, ten years after its

entry into force. Lastly, Jostein Leiro, speaking on behalf of Gry Larsen, State Secretary of Norway, reiterated his country's engagement to ensure the success of the Mine Ban Treaty, together with the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and called for all to seek appropriate synergies to facilitate and encourage implementation.

All high level delegates paid tribute to the role the ICBL had played over the years in not only bringing about the Mine Ban Treaty, but also maintaining momentum to ensure its implementation and universalization. They particularly recognized the powerful presence and work of survivors at the Summit, and expressed the wish the Call to Action they had sent to delegates would be heard, and acted upon, in the coming years.

Advocacy by survivors

A group of survivors led by the ICBL Ambassadors from Cambodia Tun Channareth and Song Kosal, engaged with all delegates after the signing of the Cartagena Declaration on the last two days of the Summit. The survivors congratulated the government delegates and asked for actions to fully implement the Cartagena Action Plan in their countries, to support the survivors, and to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions if the country has not yet done so. They also handed over the Survivors' Call to Action, and symbolic gifts from Cambodia. In addition, survivors played a crucial role holding bilateral meetings with

governments, including a meeting by a group of survivors with the American delegation to urge the USA to change its policy on landmines and to join the Mine Ban Treaty without further delay.

Statements

Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance

30 November 2009

Delivered by Jacqueline Hansen, Landmine Monitor

Madame President, Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The right to seek and receive assistance is the treaty obligation that facilitates all others; for many States Parties, without financial assistance and in-kind contributions stockpiles could not be destroyed, mines could not be removed from the ground, and survivors could not get the care they need. Both affected and non-affected States Parties should be commended for increasing their contributions to mine action. Affected states contributed \$108.7 million to mine action in 2008, up from \$50 million in 2005. Non-affected States Parties have contributed increasing assistance year after year-US\$219 million in 1999, \$392 million in 2004, and \$518 million in 2008.

And yet, these steady increases have not been enough. Each year some mine action programs struggle to obtain the necessary resources to carry out their activities, and some sectors, such as victim assistance, receive only a very small percentage of assistance.

The need for sustained and even increased funding will not diminish in the next five years. Article 5 extension requests approved in 2008 and those submitted in 2009 call for \$2.78 billion in funding to carry out activities through 2019. Projected costs for 2010-2014 average \$300 million per year for these states alone-58% of the total amount of international funding in 2008. States Parties who have not requested Article 5 extensions will also require sustained support to ensure they are able to meet their treaty obligations without requesting an extension. To ensure the treaty truly meets its promises to mine survivors donors should earmark increased funding for victim assistance.

States Parties have pointed out time and time again that international funds fall short of their needs. It is true that the needs are enormous and international funds finite. But there may be ways to improve the connection between the two, and the Cartagena Action Plan sets out many of them.

Affected States Parties, as outlined in Action #34 of the Cartagena Action Plan, must develop clear plans that outline their long-term needs. These plans must be specific and realistic, with annual targets that can be met and not moved every year to the frustration of donors and affected communities. Plans should clearly show national contributions-which should be increasing-as well as gaps needed to be filled through international assistance. Affected states need to include clearance and victim assistance in their national development plans and other strategies in order to ensure that funds can be accessed from donor development agencies.

Coordination of assistance is crucial to matching needs with resources, especially with the decreasing reliance on specific mine action budgets. Mine-affected States Parties need to ensure that mine action is included as a priority in strategies presented to donors. Donors should also internally coordinate funding strategies, by identifying funds from mine action budgets as well as from within development, humanitarian assistance, health, and other budget lines. States Parties must coordinate funding strategies with each other to ensure sufficient coverage of all mine action sectors, that all States Parties requiring assistance receive sufficient support, and to help identify and promote existing and new sources of financial and in-kind assistance to operators as well as to affected states.

The ICBL supports Zambia and others calling for a Standing Committee on Resources. This Committee will provide a forum to exchange ideas, strengthen cooperation between donors and affected states, help to ensure coherence between funding strategies, discuss how best to use scarce resources most efficiently, and facilitate the mobilization of funds needed to meet mine action needs.

Donors' traditionally short-term approach to mine action prevents effective planning and operations in mine-affected states. Mine action programs often do not know from year to year if they will be able to continue to carry out their activities. Donors should therefore provide long-term funding to programs, as outlined in Action #38 of the Cartagena Action Plan, to enable them to develop and implement long-term plans. We propose that donor states go beyond a year-to-year approach and make a commitment to partner with mine-affected States Parties until they meet their treaty obligations, as happened in Albania, where the ITF supported Albania through its completion of Article 5 obligations. Donors must also continue to support affected states even after clearance has been completed, as noted in Action #39, since victim assistance needs are ongoing.

Action #49 of the Cartagena Action Plan calls on States Parties to promote the inclusion of mine action activities in development programs. Using development funds for mine action is a useful way to leverage existing funding, but should be done with some caution. For example, States Parties are required under Article 5 to clear all known or suspected mined areas, even when there is no clear link to development priorities. We encourage States Parties to maintain a specific budget line for mine action to support such clearance. Keeping a specific budget for mine action will also provide donors with the flexibility to respond to humanitarian emergencies as they arise.

The impact of integrating mine action into development budgets is unknown. We do not know, for example, how much development funding has been spent on victim

assistance. We do not know if mine action is losing out when managed by those unfamiliar with the treaty's legal obligations. The integration of mine action into development budgets makes it increasingly difficult to track funding specifically for mine action, and States Parties are encouraged to fully implement Action #54 of the Cartagena Action Plan and provide accurate, updated, and complete reporting including on financial and in-kind assistance.

Let us not forget that international cooperation is a legal obligation, and this obligation is not lessened with the passing years. Many states are in a position to contribute funds, technical expertise, or materials, and these contributions are at the center of ensuring the international community can live up to the treaty's promises. We congratulate Australia on its recent announcement to commit A\$100 million over five years to mine action, and we hope that other donors will use this historic Summit as an opportunity to announce long-term funding strategies. We look forward to hearing more about new commitments to international cooperation and assistance this week.

Thank you.

Statement on Victim Assistance

30 November 2009

Delivered by Firoz Ali Alizada, ICBL Treaty Implementation Officer

We, the representatives of civil society, survivors and persons with disabilities from around the world, are here to examine the past five years' progress and challenges on victim assistance to share with the States Parties both our concerns and our proposals on how best to promote the needs and rights of survivors. Last Friday, over sixty victim assistance experts, including survivors, ICBL focal points on victim assistance, researchers, youth and national campaigners from over thirty countries came together in Cartagena and discussed how to better promote victim assistance in the next five years. We would like to share with you some of our observations.

In May 2009 the Victim Assistance Co-chairs said, "The challenges faced in 2009 are to a large extent identical to those faced in 2004 and likely will be the same as those to be faced in 2014." However we truly believe that together we can make significant strides forward and a difference can be made in the lives of survivors. To this end we share with you the following three messages.

Our first message is to make the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan a national priority in each State Party and in particular in affected states. As we all know, progress since the First Review Conference has been made in the process used to formulate SMART plans on victim assistance and the rights of persons with disabilities. The level of understanding about Victim Assistance concepts has increased. States Parties have said that they understand that addressing the rights and needs of landmine victims is a long-term commitment which requires adequate financial, technical and human resources. States Parties have said that they recognize the importance of empowerment, inclusion and the meaningful participation of both landmine survivors and persons with disabilities in victim assistance development and poverty reduction programs. This demonstrates that some progress has been made in the past five years. We, the survivors and persons with

disabilities, appreciate these improvements, but our questions are: What is the impact of these achievements on the lives of individuals? Which of the "real needs" of survivors are being addressed? For example, can survivors living on top of a hill in Kabul access schools and clinics? Did unemployed survivors in Yemen get jobs? What happened to those children who dropped out of school in Turkey? Do the landmine survivors in Eritrea know about their rights?

Madam President, a recent study carried out by Handicap International and members of the ICBL all over the world found that 85% of the 1,645 survivors surveyed thought that they were among the last to get a job. Psychosocial support continues to be lacking in many affected states. Of those surveyed, just 25% to 28% said that they received more services in 2009 than in 2005. In 2001, it was noted that most resources were dedicated to medical and physical rehabilitation. This remains the case in 2009. Due to a lack of services, accessibility and job opportunities, limited educational opportunities, and most importantly, inadequate financial and technical resources, the social and economic inclusion of survivors and persons with disabilities has sorely failed in the past decade.

We need to have decent jobs to survive and to support our family members; we need to have access to markets to sell our products; we need to have access to schools, hospitals, places of worship and parks; we and our children need to get proper education; we need to get training for jobs that are marketable. In sum: we want to enjoy our rights in the same way as other members of our society do. We want states to act immediately after this conference to respond to these needs efficiently.

Towards that end, this landmark event gives hope and high expectations to survivors and persons with disabilities all over the world. We value the plans that you announced

this morning and we want those plans to be translated into action immediately after this conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, we strongly support the actions on victim assistance in the Cartagena Action Plan. This action plan addresses most of the important aspects of victim assistance. It reiterates the principles of rights and equality, calls on states to prohibit discrimination and other barriers to inclusion, and promotes equal access to services and economic opportunities. It highlights priorities in service provision like availability and accessibility of affordable services, education and awareness. And throughout the text, it emphasizes the participation of landmine survivors in the development, implementation and monitoring of programs that affect us on a daily basis.

These powerful actions on paper, however, will never bring any changes to the lives of the individuals on the ground unless they are fully and properly implemented in a reasonable time frame. They will not be effective unless donor states and United Nations agencies provide adequate funding for their implementation. They will not be successful unless affected states make them national priorities, from now until 2014. They will not be sustainable unless affected states commit politically, technically and financially. The gaps will remain the same unless states and civil society work together. These are the most important factors that will lead the Cartagena Action Plan to be a success in the next five years.

We are looking forward to hearing good news and concrete plans from high level representatives of the States Parties this week, both donors and affected states, especially during the high level segment on Thursday.

Our second message relates to the absolute necessity to place victim assistance on equal footing as the other pillars of the treaty when it comes to funding. Over the past decade, victim assistance remained the smallest component of mine action funding. While most donor and affected states are unable to identify the level of resources dedicated to victim assistance because it is usually integrated into mine action or development budgets, it is generally recognized by donor and affected states, as well as the ICBL, that the resources available are insufficient. This is disappointing from a survivor's

standpoint, to say the least. It is impossible to improve victim assistance programs without financial assistance.

We ask donor states and organizations to pledge adequate funding to victim assistance, to earmark victim assistance funds so they make it to those in need. We want affected states to share concrete and measurable plans on how to improve victim assistance in next five years. Our third message relates to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as a golden opportunity to advance victim assistance. The CRPD is the most effective framework through which to provide victim assistance.

Landmine survivors face the same stigma, as well as physical and societal barriers that prevent all persons with disabilities from accessing equal opportunities in society. The remedy lies in removing these legal and societal barriers. The CRPD provides detailed rights based guidance on how to create that fundamental change. Therefore we urge those countries that haven't signed the CRPD to sign and ratify without further delay. And those that already are party must align their laws and policies with the CRPD and implement them the ground.

The rights and needs of girls, boys, women and men must be equally addressed; therefore it is important to consider a gender perspective into all mine action programmes to ensure that the needs and priorities of all mine victims are equally and adequately responded. We, as civil society, stand ready to support and collaborate with national efforts to improve the lives of survivors.

In conclusion, once again we urge the States Parties, in particular the affected states, to implement the Cartagena Action Plan over the next five years, to fund victim assistance, and to ratify and implement the CRPD and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Ladies and Gentlemen, we want to see changes in the lives of individual survivors and their family members in the next five years and we believe that with enough dedication and resources, this is "mission possible."

Thanks.

Comments on Extension Requests

30 November 2009 and 1 December 2009

Presented by Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL Treaty Implementation Director

Cambodia

As others have noted, Cambodia's extension request details considerable recent progress in its humanitarian mine action program, from the new Baseline Survey to the agreement on principles for planning and prioritizing clearance to preparation of policy and standards for land release. On the other hand, earlier action to address critical data needs would have allowed Cambodia to present a comprehensive assessment of the remaining mine problem before asking for an extension. Still, the initiatives that Cambodia sets out in this extension request, several of which are already in the process of implementation, represent a platform for more efficient and effective clearance of the remaining problem.

The ICBL agrees with the view that the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces can play an important role in tackling Cambodia's remaining mine problem but remains concerned that clearance is subject to adequate scrutiny and accountability. We are pleased to hear that the RCAF should be accredited by the end of the year and that there will be quality control on the areas they have previously cleared. But we would also like to know what steps are being taken to ensure that the CMAA also needs high level political support for its role as regulator given the RCAF's previous resistance to oversight on mine action.

The request acknowledges two factors that could impede progress: funding and border tensions. The likelihood that Cambodia will achieve the 38% increase in funding it says would be needed to achieve completion within 10 years is remote, and it therefore appears probable, as the request acknowledges, that «the problem for Cambodia will go beyond 2019.»

In addition, clearance of border areas in the past has suffered from interruptions caused by tensions with Thailand and

interventions by military commanders. Cambodia has agreed that no orders would be issued to halt border demining but that in areas where the border is not clearly demarcated, demining operations required the approval of the two countries' Joint Border Commission and that demining should concentrate on other priorities rather than border areas that are disputed. The extension request also states that «Continued border tensions may affect Cambodia's full ability to meet the obligation of the convention.» Given the urgency of demining these sensitive zones and the length of time it may take for the JBC to complete its work, the ICBL encourages Cambodia to do all it can to find the most rapid solution for demining the area, as called for in Action 18 of the Cartagena Action Plan and as suggested by Thailand this afternoon.

The ICBL's main concern with the request is that its estimate of the remaining contamination is just that, an estimate. The request acknowledges that the findings of the baseline survey are «likely to be significantly different.» The current data does not therefore present States Parties with a reliable basis for determining the merits of the request for a 10-year extension; nor does it give Cambodia a basis for developing a work plan or budget detailing how it will fulfill its obligations.

The ICBL believes the appropriate response would be to provide a two-year extension, allowing Cambodia time to complete the first phase of the baseline survey, which will provide data that allows both States Parties and Cambodia to make the judgments required by the extension process. Failing that, Cambodia should be asked to commit to resubmitting a work plan to States Parties based on the findings of the baseline survey.

Tajikistan

The ICBL recognizes that the lack of international financial support over the years has hampered Tajikistan's efforts to increase its demining capacity, but delays have also been due to the late start in clearance and in making efficient use of land release techniques, which have produced very good results since 2007. Given that Tajikistan now has a more realistic estimate of 11km² of suspected hazardous areas and that machinery will arrive early next year, we believe that Tajikistan should be able to finish in much less than 10 years.

Indeed, the ICBL believes that a 10-year request is not in line with the obligation of Article 5 to complete mine clearance «as soon as possible» or the intention of States Parties that extensions be only for the minimum time strictly needed. We are concerned that in developing its request, Tajikistan was too reliant on a UNDP evaluation that was much more conservative than Tajikistan Mine Action Center (TMAC) or other actors on the ground had been. The evaluation recognizes that in the original estimation of the TMAC, «Tajikistan could clear all the SHAs by early 2015.» Unfortunately, the evaluation recommended it take twice this long, and Tajikistan followed this advice.

For all these reasons and despite an awareness of Tajikistan's historic difficulty in attracting funds, we have recommended that Tajikistan be granted a five-year extension. We have called on Tajikistan to put forward a new, five-year plan based on the possibility of mobilizing greater levels of national and international funds and other resources, and then do all it can to obtain such resources as quickly as possible. We have also called upon donors to respond favorably to any such requests so that the work could actually be finished within a shorter period of time. We are pleased to hear about the arrival of the long-awaited machinery early next year and hope other donors rise to the occasion.

If States Parties do grant Tajikistan a 10-year extension, we believe Tajikistan should be asked to submit a new work plan with a shorter timeline if and when significant new financial, material, or human resources become available, such as the arrival of machinery next year. Tajikistan should also

be asked to review annually the possibility of reducing the time needed to complete Article 5 obligations, and we are encouraged to hear that Tajikistan also believes this may be possible.

Finally, we would like to urge Tajikistan to make the necessary efforts, with the support of international community, to finalize the delineation of the border with Uzbekistan and to find a solution to allow subsequent demining of all mined areas found to be in its territory without further delay.

Uganda

We would like to thank Uganda and the other states for their presentations, and also thank the Analyzing Group for their excellent and comprehensive papers, which allows us to be brief. Although Uganda could not begin mine action for reasons of security until 2006, the ICBL believes that it is highly regrettable that Uganda did not undertake the necessary evaluations in time to realize it would need an extension and make the request before its deadline. Of course, Uganda's failure to begin demining much earlier is also problematic not only because of the impact on the local population and because of its treaty obligations, but also because it might have helped Uganda to better assess its ability to finish on-time.

At the same time, given the problems with the initial survey and the fact that the second survey covered the same areas, States Parties should seek assurance from UMAC that it has identified all mined areas and that no additional surveying is needed.

Among the reasons for Uganda's failure to meet its deadline, the cited managerial problems within governmental and UN bodies is most troublesome and will need to be tackled if Uganda is going to meet the objectives of its plan. Resolving such problems will also be a factor in its ability to attract international assistance.

Overall, given the reasons we outlined in our critiques and those laid out by Ambassador Streuli this morning, the ICBL believes that the three years Uganda is requesting is a

very conservative timeline. If there is confirmation that the MineWolf will be available in early 2010, this timeline should be reviewed. Uganda admits in its Executive Summary of 18 October that «The availability of this additional capacity will allow Uganda to fulfill its obligations in a shorter time frame, all other factors remaining constant.» States Parties should strongly encourage Uganda to do just that. Even if the MineWolf is not available, it should aim to finish much faster than the three years requested. If the machinery is used, Uganda should be asked to return to the 10th Meeting of the States Parties with a revised work plan and budget that factor in this significant additional capacity.

Statement on Clearing Mined Areas

1 December 2009

Delivered by Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL Treaty Implementation Director

Madame President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mine Ban Treaty held out a hope to countless people that soon - «as soon as possible» as the treaty says - their land would be cleared of antipersonnel mines and they would no longer fear for their lives when walking to their school, market, water source, or farmland. One of our goals this week is to measure how far we have come in fulfilling this promise and to rededicate ourselves to this task in the most urgent manner.

One of the many successes of the treaty has been the high number of mine-affected countries that joined - binding themselves to clear all mined areas in their territory in less than ten-years. The first decade has now passed, and 15 previously mine-affected states have been able to declare themselves free of mines. We warmly congratulate Albania, Greece, Rwanda, and Zambia for their recent announcements of completion before their deadlines. This is living up to the letter and the spirit of the convention!

On the other hand 36 States Parties are still engaged in demining - some with a sense of urgency equal to the need; others with a lack of progress and commitment that is extremely disappointing. The wide range in the quality of states' efforts has been brought to light through the 19 requests for extensions so far submitted to States Parties. No one expected that 19 states would request more time for demining, and the Review notes that a number of States Parties felt such a number was inconsistent with the treaty's obligation to clear mined areas «as soon as possible.» Indeed at the First review Conference the NAP envisions «few if any» extension requests. As we and others have noted on many occasions, the possibility for an extension under Article 5 is one that was designed for those countries that would not have been able to - despite all their best efforts - finish within the proscribed 10 years.

Among the 19 states requesting extensions, there are certainly the exceptional cases that the extension provision was designed for - states with very high levels of contamination, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Cambodia, or states that due to security reasons cannot access mined areas, like Colombia, which will need to request an extension next year. Many states fell behind due to a lack of international support. But there are others that have simply started too late, have been plagued by mismanagement, or have not received the requisite financial or political support from their own government. This year, we found that Tajikistan and Uganda may have been able to finish on time if they had started earlier and had been given more resources by the international community and their own governments. The Cartagena Action Plan signals to States Parties facing upcoming deadlines that only States Parties facing such «exceptional circumstances» should be seeking an extension.

Vigilance needs to continue even after extensions are granted to ensure states do not need additional extensions and that they meet the goal - as suggested for many in the decisions of the 9MSP - of finishing faster than the time granted. Of the 15 States Parties that received extensions last year, at least 7 already appear to be behind on the plans they submitted in their requests. Based on currently available information, Croatia has only looks likely to release only around 65% of its 2009 target, and Bosnia-Herzegovina will only meet 50% of its target for release through technical survey and clearance. Due to a lack of political and promised financial support, Thailand was only able to clear 3% of its target for 2009 by the middle of the year. On the other hand, Denmark, Jordan, and at least four others seem on track to meet their targets.

31
STATEMENTS

We believe there should also have been mention in the Review and the Action Plan of the need for states submitting requests for extensions to only request the shortest number of years absolutely needed. Again, we don't find this to be the case this year, especially concerning Tajikistan. Some lessons learned are reflected in the Review and the action plan, with recommendations of both the 7MSP and the 8MSP noted. These documents place a special emphasis on identification of mined areas, which is still a major concern in many countries, including Cambodia. For all states receiving extensions, we believe that the time planned for completion should be under regular review with an aim to keeping it as short as possible. As we will highlight on the specific states, we believe when the situation of states changes significantly relative to the plan they submitted, they should present a revised work plan to a future Meeting of States Parties.

32 STATEMENTS

If fully implemented, the Cartagena Action Plan can help get states back on track to clearing the land quickly and safely. Indeed, the section on «clearing mined areas» begins with a call on all states to clear areas «as soon as possible,» whether they have just joined the convention or are working towards an extended deadline. First and foremost, States Parties need to know what the extent of the problem is, and Action 14 therefore calls on them to identify the precise locations of all remaining mined areas by the 10th MSP. This may be difficult, but we encourage states to rise to this challenge because effective planning and operations depend on having this knowledge. For those states that have 10 years or more of mine action behind them, it is high time for them to be able to say with some amount of certainty where the mined areas are. Adapting the new IMAS on land release into national standards, policies and procedures as called for in Action 16 will help. We also call on States Parties to ensure any future surveys gather such precise information.

Getting accurate data will be facilitated by Action 17, which calls on states to supplement the usual reports on number of mines cleared with much more useful information on how much land has been returned for productive use. This

information will be most useful when broken down by the method of release: be it clearance, technical survey or non-technical survey, as the Action also requires.

The Action Plan and Review also remind States Parties that once mined areas are identified, all of them must be cleared, not just those with immediate impact on populations, though of course those areas should be the highest priority for clearance. We still see some states mention «impact-free» or «mine-safe» as an end result for their mine clearance programs, and we still see some donors using the same terms to describe the goal of their support, although this is less than what the treaty requires.

The requirement also applies to border zones and areas around security installations. Failing to clear these areas might - as the Review notes - indicate ongoing use and therefore a violation of Article 1. The ICBL strongly encourages States Parties that are delaying clearance of mined areas along contested borders to make all possible efforts to arrange for clearing of the entire area without linking it to eventual delineation of the border. Making use of a neutral third party to conduct the clearance may be one way to ensure the work is done in a way that gains the confidence of both sides.

Finally, the Review and Action Plan reflect developments in mine risk education methodologies, noting that risk education in most states no longer works well with one-way mass communication, but rather should be tailored to the specific situation of the community and use community liaison to ensure there is two-way communication. An important lesson learned that is not well articulated in the Review or the Action Plan is the need to find viable alternatives for those who take risks knowingly in order to eke out a living or to acquire food or fuel for their families.

Of course, through all areas of mine action, the specific needs and priorities of women and girls must be taken into account, as well as the information they hold on mined areas, or they may not be able to benefit from and contribute to risk education, clearance, or released land

on an equal basis with men and boys, as is reflected in the Action Plan.

Madame President, the Landmine Monitor estimated that there are around 3,000km² of land remaining to be cleared around the world. We call on States Parties to come away from Cartagena with renewed energy and commitment to tackling this large, but manageable remaining challenge. It will take time, resources, and hard work, but it is doable. It is «mission possible,» and it is a mission that will save lives.

Thank you.

Statement on Clearing Mined Areas

1 December 2009

Delivered by Eva Veble, DanChurchAid, on behalf of the mine clearance NGOs of the ICBL: DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Demining Group (DDG), Handicap International (HI), Landmine Action, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

Clearance of mined areas is crucial to achieve the humanitarian objective of the Mine Ban Treaty. Only when land is cleared is the threat to the population removed and the path to development opened.

As can be seen from the statements today, a lot has been achieved in terms of clearance in the last 10 years. More than 1.100 square kilometres of land was cleared in this period as reported by the Landmine Monitor. Hundreds of thousands of people can again use their land for housing, agriculture and grazing. Hundreds of thousands of people can drive on roads which are now safe again. Thousands of previously cut-off communities are able to interact freely and be accessed by development and relief agencies.

When looking back at the first years of clearance under this convention, we can see that the methodology and approach was different from what is being used today. As in any new sector we have had to cope with a challenging learning curve to adapt and improve our approaches. In retrospect, we can see that clearance tasks were often approached without critical assessment and without taking into account the different types and nature of mined areas and the real impact on the affected populations. Mine action was quite often also executed separately from other relief and development activities. A contributing factor to this situation were poor cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms in post-conflict and development countries.

Speaking as clearance operators, we can say that today's mine action toolbox is proof that we have learned and improved continuously over the last 10 years, and that we are serious in our aim to perform our work in the best way possible and to the highest possible standards. Today we have better and more nuanced methodologies to deal with

mined and suspected mined areas. These methodologies ensure that the right resources are deployed in tandem with the right method suited for a particular task – and consequently that land is released back to the beneficiaries as soon as possible. This development is reflected in the clearance figures. The new Landmine Monitor reports that in 2008 alone mine action programs cleared almost 160 square kilometres of mined areas – the highest total ever recorded.

With improving community liaison and survey methodologies, we also believe that we are ensuring that the cleared areas are actually of highest value to the impacted population, as defined by the population itself as well as the relevant country's development plans. Dear Madam President, we believe that it is crucial to maintain this momentum and we fully support the Cartagena Action Plan on Article 5 which seeks recommitment and rededication of the affected and donor states parties to ensure continued clearance of mined areas.

National ownership of the mine problem is crucial for effective clearance to take place. There is a proven correlation between national ownership and better results in clearance operations. For national ownership to have maximum impact there must be effective support to national capacity in 2 each affected country, also to ensure continuity with dealing with the residual problem in the years to come. We are thus encouraging affected states in cooperation with the donor community to ensure that the capacity support provided to build these organisations and institutions consists of sufficiently qualified people with clearly defined terms of reference and benchmarks which respond to the defined needs of the affected country.

Coordination of our activities with responsible UN agencies is crucial for good implementation of our joint work. We believe that coordination can no longer only mean allocating tasks in the limited mine action setting, but also needs to increase linkages with development. With this in mind, we do not believe that the increased emphasis on commercial contracting by the UN will be the way to meet the ambitions of the Cartagena Action Plan. Poorly prepared tender documents and poorly executed tender procedures delay clearance operations and consequently deny palpable results for the beneficiaries. Moreover, while activities like community liaison and survey are integral parts of our work, they are difficult to quantify when measured in purely commercial terms. These activities carry immense benefits for the population on the ground and continue to improve our work and ensure that the linkage with development is achieved and maintained.

The mine action community thus has a responsibility to ensure that all actors adhere to the same standards of accountability and transparency of funds spent.

Madam President, The Cartagena Action Plan lays out a strategic plan for the next 5 year period. However most of the funding is still provided on a short term annual basis. We believe that much better results will be achieved, if more States Parties would follow the good examples of the few donors who are already providing multi-year grants.

In conclusion, we, the clearance operators are fully committed to getting the job done, and we remain committed to scrutinizing all possible approaches to improving our clearance efforts together with the States Parties and other actors and prove that this is indeed a mission possible.

Thank you.

Statement on Stockpile Destruction

1 December 2009

Delivered by Mary Wareham, Human Rights Watch

36
STATEMENTS

We would like to congratulate Ethiopia and Kuwait for completing the destruction of their stockpiled antipersonnel mines this year. They are the most recent of the 86 States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty to complete destruction of stocks. Nineteen of these States Parties have fulfilled this obligation since the First Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty. States Parties collectively have destroyed about 44 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines, including more than 5.5 million since the First Review Conference.

Most States Parties have completed destruction far in advance of their deadlines. Through 2007, only four States Parties—Turkmenistan, Guinea, Cape Verde, and Afghanistan—missed their stockpile destruction deadlines. Each subsequently completed destruction about a year late.

The destruction of stockpiled antipersonnel mines is a crucial treaty obligation. Unlike the deadline for clearance of emplaced mines, the Mine Ban Treaty contains no provision allowing for an extension of the stockpile destruction deadline. This is because negotiators believed that every state should be able to meet a four-year deadline with appropriate political will, adequate planning and, if needed, assistance.

The past decade of impressive compliance of this core obligation of the treaty became seriously tarnished in March 2008 when three States Parties—Greece, Turkey, and Belarus—missed their stockpile destruction deadlines. As we have heard, each remains in non-compliance today.

Greece and Turkey simply started the destruction process far too late. Had they initiated the planning process earlier, they would not have had any difficulty meeting their deadlines. That should be instructive for any future States Parties that

have stocks, as well as for States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We recognize that Belarus has special challenges related to PFM mines and its need for significant international assistance. But again, if Belarus, States Parties, and other donors had engaged extensively and in a sustained way from the very beginning, Belarus would not be in the situation it faces today.

We appreciate the updates provided by all three countries, particularly Turkey's indication that it will finish stockpile destruction as soon as possible next year. The Review document notes the serious concern expressed by other States Parties about non-compliance by Greece, Turkey, and Belarus, and the Action Plan includes three points aimed at states in non-compliance. It is crucial that all three states set a firm date for completion, and that they and donors devote the necessary resources to meet it. For transparency purposes, they should report to other States Parties on progress on a monthly basis.

To ensure no new cases of non-compliance, we strongly support Action #10, which says that States Parties should prepare stockpile destruction plans within one year of joining the treaty, and begin actual destruction of mines within two years.

However, we are faced right now with a looming compliance crisis for Ukraine. Ukraine informed States Parties in May 2009 that it was unlikely to meet its 1 June 2010 stockpile destruction deadline. It still possesses nearly 6 million PFM-type mines and almost 150,000 POM-2 mines. With less than a year left before Ukraine's deadline, we are running out of time to find any solution that will enable them to finish destruction by their deadline.

We are gravely concerned that Ukraine will not meet its deadline and that it may take as many as five years to complete destruction. This is a matter that demands the attention of all state parties as a matter of urgency and as a shared responsibility to ensure compliance with the treaty.

These are the only four States Parties that have officially declared a stockpile destruction obligation. However, Iraq has reported uncertainty about the existence of a stockpile which it still needs to clarify well in advance of its 1 February 2012 stockpile destruction deadline. Moreover, Equatorial Guinea and the Gambia have never submitted an Article 7 report and thus have not yet formally declared the presence or absence of stockpiles. But, they are not believed to possess any mines.

At the First Review Conference, States Parties resolved to act when previously unknown stockpiles of antipersonnel mines are discovered after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed. This includes reporting such discoveries in accordance with their obligations under Article 7 and destroying these mines as a matter of urgent priority. States Parties took this a step further by agreeing to adopt a modified voluntary reporting format for reporting on these mines.

Since the First Review Conference in 2004, 15 States Parties have reported new discoveries or seizures of mines in their Article 7 reports. There have also been official or media reports of new discoveries or seizures of antipersonnel mines in at least eight other States Parties, but they have not included such information in their Article 7 reports (Algeria, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Kenya, Peru, the Philippines, and Turkey).

Finally, we would like to point to a different kind of stockpile concern: those held by states not party to the Convention. Landmine Monitor estimates that as many as 35 states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty stockpile more than 160 million antipersonnel mines. The vast majority of these stockpiles belong to just three states: China (estimated 110 million), Russia (estimated 24.5 million), and the US (10.4 million).

Other states with large stockpiles include Pakistan (estimated six million) and India (estimated four to five million).

These huge numbers reinforce the importance of universalizing the Mine Ban Treaty and firmly establishing a new international norm against the weapon, so that these millions of mines will never be used.

Thank you.

Statement on Universalization

1 December 2009

Delivered by Katarzyna Derlicka, ICBL Advocacy and Campaigning Officer

Madame President,

We had hoped to start our statement by congratulating new States Parties for joining the Mine Ban Treaty, but for the second straight year we will not have that pleasure. Not a single country has joined the Treaty since November 2007.

No doubt we have accomplished much on universalizing the Treaty and its norm since the First Review Conference, which has been well reflected in the draft Review and mentioned already by numerous delegations. We will not repeat all the achievements of the past five years, but rather try to look to the future and reflect on how we can reach universal adherence - an indispensable element for a mine-free world. Nevertheless, it is hard not to mention that since the First Review Conference 13 new states have joined the Treaty, including some notable former users and stockpilers, as well as affected countries, including Ethiopia, Iraq, Indonesia, Kuwait, and Ukraine. Equally, if not more, remarkable has been the successful stigmatization of the weapon, which has led to a near complete halt to government use, trade, and production of antipersonnel mines.

However, with the standstill on the universalization front in the past two years we have been asking ourselves two key questions: have we hit a brick wall and the 156 States Parties is as far as we can get? What should we be doing and how in the future to secure further progress?

The ICBL believes we have not hit the brick wall yet and there is still need and space to continue our joint universalization efforts. There are a few reasons, which make us confident that we still can and should achieve more.

First, the remarkable rate of adherence to the Treaty and its norm both since its adoption and in the past 5 years. The mine ban norm has become so firmly established,

that for a significant number of countries it is only a matter of when they will join, not if they will join. We have always known that the last mile would be the longest one with the relatively few and relatively «harder» states remaining outside the Treaty. Nevertheless, by our count, at least one-third and up to one-half of the States not party could join in the next few years.

Second, the progressively growing interest in the Treaty and engagement by many States not party over the past years. There are 18 States not party present today in this room as observers. Most have taken steps toward accession such as ceasing production, export, and in some cases even use; adopting a national moratorium on transfer, use or production of antipersonnel mines; voting in favor of the annual UNGA Resolution calling for universalization of the treaty; submitting voluntary annual transparency reports; clearing contaminated areas and assisting victims, or destroying stocks of antipersonnel mines. Many of them behave as a de facto State Party. Two of them - Marshall Islands and Poland - as the treaty's signatories - have already a legal responsibility to observe the Treaty's core provisions. In addition Finland and Poland have had committed publicly to join the treaty in 2012. Half on the current States not party have supported the annual UN General Assembly Resolution on the Treaty. Among those who used to oppose it and now vote in favor are Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Laos, Marshall Islands, and Morocco. This year, Azerbaijan, Morocco, and Poland submitted voluntarily Article 7 reports; Laos indicated it would submit a report in the future, and Mongolia and Sri Lanka have done so in the past.

In addition, at least 59 non-state armed groups in 13 countries have agreed to ban the use of antipersonnel mines since 1999, including this year in India and Iran.

Other specific developments we have witnessed recently that we hope will bear a fruit in near future include the

leadership shown by the Lao PDR as well as Lebanon in the process that led to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and we look forward to continue working closely with both states with the hope they will join this treaty very soon. We also expect accession soon by Mongolia, as a result of intense dialog and efforts undertaken this year by States Parties, the ISU and civil society, including a mission by the ICBL Diplomatic Advisor to Ulaanbaatar earlier this year. We are pleased to see Nepal's Minister of Peace and Reconstruction this week with us and we hope this is a sign of Nepal's commitment to soon join the treaty. We are similarly hopeful to see Sri Lanka moving steadily toward joining the treaty after expressing will to do so last month at a national seminar on the MBT and related issues co organized by the authorities in Colombo together with Unicef and the Sri Lankan campaign to ban landmines. Also the Gulf states (Bahrain, Oman, and the UAE) have committed to accede to the treaty and should do that without further delay.

Last but not least, we are pleased that the United States has sent an observer delegation; this marks the first time the US has formally attended a Mine Ban Treaty conference. Several days ago, we were bitterly disappointed when a State Department spokesman said the US had concluded a review of its landmine policy and decided not to join the Treaty. However, the Obama administration subsequently issued a correction stating that a review was still underway and a final decision on accession had not been made. We urge the US to undertake a thorough and transparent review that is aimed at identifying the measures needed to enable the US to join the Mine Ban Treaty as soon as possible.

These are just a few examples that make us confident that we are still far away from the brick wall on universalization, and that significant progress can be made in the coming years.

To answer the second crucial question on what we do next and how we do it to ensure further progress on universalization:

The draft Cartagena Action Plan provides much if not all the answer. We believe the six concise and strong Actions

dedicated to the convention's universalization constitute a very clear and good guidance for the States Parties' universalization work in the next five years.

We believe it is absolutely crucial that ALL States Parties take seriously their responsibility of protecting and further promoting THEIR convention and its norm through proactive engagement with States not party. Regrettably, in the past few years, apart from the ongoing work of the ICBL and the ICRC, we have seen only a handful of States Parties actively engaged in universalization work. In this respect, we would like to thank Canada and the recent Presidents of the Meetings of States Parties. However, if we want to see significant progress this cannot be an effort of a few States Parties and the civil society only - many more States Parties should get actively involved to make it a common, sustained effort.

Equally important is that the States Parties as per the CAP indeed «seize every opportunity to promote» the Convention and engage with States not party at the ministerial level and higher, something that has been rightly identified in the draft Review as a «dire need».

Lastly, the basis of the success of this treaty and its universalization and implementation has always been the unique partnership between civil society and governments. We are happy to see it reflected in the draft Review and in Action #2 of the CAP. We call on all States Parties to continue taking pride in this partnership and working closely with us toward our common goal. We assure you that ICBL will continue to do so.

The ICBL looks forward to working together with all of you in the next 5 years towards full universalization of the Treaty and a mine-free world, which together we have been making 'mission possible.'

We would also like to take this opportunity to call on all States to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions that so far has been signed by 103 states and ratified by 24 and will enter into force next year.

Thank you.

Introduction to the Stockpile Destruction Session

2 December 2009

Delivered by Steve Goose, Human Rights Watch, ICBL Head of Delegation

40
STATEMENTS

The requirement for destruction of all stockpiles of antipersonnel mines, and the firm, relatively short deadline with no possibility for extension, are remarkable provisions in the Mine Ban Treaty, and have been remarkably implemented. Not all disarmament-oriented instruments have such obligations. But, stockpile destruction is best thought of from a humanitarian perspective. It is preventive mine action. It has potentially saved millions of lives, as a mine never laid can never claim a victim. It has also potentially saved millions of dollars, as it is much less costly to destroy a mine than it is to clear it, or to care for its victim.

Over the years, States Parties have put a great deal of effort into emphasizing the importance of meeting the stockpile destruction deadline. They have done this both to save lives and to maintain the credibility of the Mine Ban Treaty. The Stockpile Destruction Standing Committee in particular has been used to build the political will to get the job done, to identify potential problems, and to find ways to overcome them.

In 1999, there was a wide divergence of views among States Parties about the difficulty and costs of destroying antipersonnel mines. But, with the exception of the special case of PFM mines, it is clear that these early concerns were misplaced. Technical and financial issues have not been overwhelming obstacles for the vast majority of States Parties. Relatively few States Parties have required significant outside assistance (which is fortunate in many ways, including the notable reluctance of most donor states to contribute to stockpile destruction, with the key exception of Canada).

There is no question that the key to timely and successful stockpile destruction is political will; the determination to get the job done, and prioritize it accordingly. In nearly every case where a country has missed its deadline or come close to missing it, the problem has been that the state simply started too late, both in planning and execution. The clear lesson of the Mine Ban Treaty experience is get started immediately, do not wait. States Parties have acknowledged, including through the Cartagena Action Plan, that new States Parties should have a plan for stockpile destruction in place in one year, and should begin physical destruction of mines within two years.

In fact, the record of compliance with stockpile destruction has been very good. Most states have finished far in advance of their deadlines, in many cases, years in advance. Of the 86 States Parties that have completed destruction, only four missed their deadlines, all of which finished relatively soon thereafter. Collectively, States Parties have destroyed more than 44 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines. We must congratulate Ethiopia and Kuwait as the most recent to complete destruction.

There are still at least four States Parties that need to complete destruction, not counting Iraq which has expressed uncertainty about its stockpile status. Of the four, three missed their deadlines in March 2008 and have been in non-compliance ever since—Greece, Turkey, and Belarus. The fourth, Ukraine, has told States Parties it is likely to miss its deadline in June 2010.

These are the most serious confirmed cases of non-compliance with any of the Mine Ban Treaty's obligations in its history. The highest possible priority should be placed on bringing these three into compliance and avoiding a fourth case.

Two other stockpile related issues deserve mention. First, States Parties have, as reflected in both the Review document and the Action Plan, recognized the importance of timely reporting on and destruction of newly discovered stocks of antipersonnel mines. These could be mine caches that are found, or mines seized or captured from rebels, or mines turned in during disarmament processes. States Parties thus far do not have a good record of reporting on either the discovery or the destruction of such mines.

Second, a significant number of states retaining mines under the Article 3 exception have not provided any indications that the mines are being actively used for the permitted purposes of training and development, which gives rise to concerns that the mines are in essence stockpiled mines that should be destroyed. The Cartagena Action Plan addresses this matter, and States Parties should confront it in a vigorous and transparent manner.

In closing, let me reflect back to the early days of the Mine Ban Treaty. Especially in those early years, the Stockpile Destruction Standing Committee was a great example of the civil society-government partnership that has driven the Ottawa Process, and of the benefits of a somewhat informal approach to our work, sometimes pushing the boundaries of traditional diplomacy. There may be some in the room who remember that for the first few intersessional meetings, I served as an informal co-chair for the Standing Committee, sitting on the podium and helping to facilitate and guide discussions. We held Stockpile Destruction Film Festivals, jointly organized by the ICBL and governments, which became sometimes raucous affairs, but that built political will and determination. The ICBL still is given a special spot on the committee agenda to provide its global overview of the stockpile situation.

The benefits of partnership and a non-traditional approach to our work are also important lessons from the Mine Ban Treaty stockpile destruction experience—lessons that we should carry forward into the future. Thank you.

Survivors' Call to Action

3 December 2009

Delivered by Margaret Arach Orech, ICBL Ambassador; Prasanna Rajiv Kuruppu, ICBL Sri Lanka; and Ken Rutherford, Survivor Corps

Despite some progress, promoting victim assistance has been the most challenging part of the Mine Ban Treaty's implementation. Thousands of landmine survivors still face physical, psychological, economic, social and legal barriers that are preventing their inclusion in society. The Cartagena Summit provides an opportunity to promote the rights of survivors to ensure their needs are addressed so that they may fully participate proactively in society in the next five years.

WE, THE SURVIVORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

1. Expect that the Cartagena Summit will bring changes in the lives of landmine victims by adopting a strong Cartagena Action Plan that will reenergize States Parties to step up to their responsibility to provide adequate assistance
2. Believe that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Cluster Munitions align with Mine Ban Treaty will promote the rights and address the needs of survivors and persons with disabilities, once properly implemented
3. Are convinced that victim assistance is more effective when it is part of broader development programs and comprehensive national policies and action plans
4. Value the commitments announced by the participants to the Summit and expect those commitments to translate into action in the next five years
5. Express our concern that survivors, especially those living in remote areas, remain vulnerable to extreme poverty and lack access to the services they need
6. Ask that States Parties reconsider the importance of measures to ensure economic inclusion since this vital component of Victim Assistance has often been ignored in the past
7. Draw attention to the lack of accessibility, and gaps in the availability of psychosocial supports services in most of the affected States—which severely hamper the inclusion and empowerment of survivors

The Cartagena Action Plan is the key document in the next five years. States Parties, in particular affected States, must make sure that the actions are fully implemented on the ground in order to guarantee a real and lasting impact on the lives of landmine victims and persons with disabilities.

WE CALL ON STATES, AND IN PARTICULAR ON AFFECTED STATES, TO FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES:

1. Take immediate actions to ensure all landmine survivors in your country have full access to the services they need
2. Take immediate measures to prohibit discrimination against landmine survivors in all spheres of life
3. Guarantee meaningful participation of landmine survivors in all areas of victim assistance at all levels
4. Make sure the economic needs and rights of landmine survivors are part of priorities of development programs. In particular, ensure employment and self-employment opportunities are increased by a fixed annual percentage as determined by national victim assistance stakeholders, and ensure income generation programs are expanded to all landmine survivors and persons with disabilities as needed
5. Improve the quality of physical rehabilitation services including prostheses, orthotics and mobility devices, and enhance these services as close as possible to affected communities, with a particular focus on reaching remote areas

6. Remove physical, social and attitudinal barriers that prevent landmine survivors and persons with disabilities from being included in society. This means that public buildings, roads, social spaces, services, and information be made accessible, in other words, available, affordable and adequate

7. Promote inclusive education so that all landmine survivors get proper education and job training. This means that schools and trainings centers must be physically and geographically accessible. It also requires that States allocate adequate resources for educating teachers and trainers on disability rights and inclusive teaching skills

8. The affected States should make sure that multi-years psychosocial and peer support services are available and accessible to all survivors as needed and include peer support in existing health and rehabilitation services available to landmine survivors

9. Adapt national laws and policies, if not done yet, in accordance with the Mine Ban Treaty obligations and in line with the right-based standard articulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and ensure they are effectively enforced within a reasonable timeframe

10. Review, update and implement National Victim Assistance or Disability Action Plans in close consultation with landmine survivors and disability stakeholders, in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan

11. Affected States and donors have to prioritize capacity building of national institutions, including Persons with Disabilities' Organizations, through trainings, exchange programs and the provision of adequate technical and financial resources to enhance ownership and sustain services

12. Appoint a focal point to coordinate Victim Assistance programs in the country

13. Ensure all Victim Assistance programs are monitored regularly, and report to States Parties and all national stakeholders on both progress made and challenges faced

14. Affected States must consider contributing adequate long-term national funds to victim assistance. For example: by allocating a percentage of national annual income to victim assistance. Donor countries must increase multi-year sustainable funding for victim assistance activities

15. Harmonize your work when implementing the MBT, CCM

and CRPD to protect and promote the rights of Landmine Survivors and Persons with Disabilities, and fill in the gaps and avoid duplications

16. States not already party must ratify MBT, CRPD and CCM without further delay

WE, SURVIVORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, COMMIT TO:

1. Share our first-hand knowledge in order to improve victim assistance and promote the rights of Survivors and persons with disabilities

2. Participate in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the MBT and other relevant conventions

3. Work through our organizations to contribute to the delivery of services and the provision of peer support to landmine survivors, their families and persons with disabilities

4. Continue in our efforts to convince those States that have not joined the MBT, CCM and CPRD to join as soon as possible

Youth Declaration

4 December 2009

Delivered by Ndèye Khoudia Ndiaye and Gul Nabi, Youth Leaders Forum Participants

Your Excellencies,

We are 35 youth from over 20 different countries, participating in the Youth Leaders Forum. Bringing with us our knowledge and experiences involving mines, we are gathered here in Cartagena to reaffirm the work that was started in Ottawa that aims to stop the devastating effects caused by antipersonnel mines. Some participants in our group, our friends, have been very severely injured by landmines. Learning about their stories and how landmines have permanently altered their lives, we are motivated to strive for change until our world is one in which their needs are met and all of our rights are protected.

44 STATEMENTS We appreciate ongoing efforts states put forward on the Mine Ban Treaty, as well as the work being done by civil society, to alleviate the harm and suffering caused by antipersonnel mines and at the same time working towards a mine-free world.

Marking the 10th year of the Mine Ban Treaty, we recognize its positive impact on the decreased number of new mine victims all over the world. The Treaty has facilitated the promotion of the well-being and human rights of those affected by antipersonnel mines.

Despite these achievements, we, the youth, know that there is still much to be done to completely rid our world of mines. Therefore we call on States Parties and international civil society to carry on and sustain the achievements and progress we have all made towards a mine-free world. A significant increase in funding for victim assistance, mine clearance, and mine risk education programs is needed, thus we further call on states to provide the necessary assistance in concrete, measurable and tangible ways.

We, the youth, who are disproportionately affected by landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, even though we neither produce these weapons nor

perpetrate the conflicts in which they were used, call on states not party to please sign, ratify or accede to the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions as soon as possible. Landmines and cluster munitions do not only maim and kill people, but also destroy the environment. Is it not time for you, your Excellencies, to give your children and your grandchildren the chance to live in a safe and peaceful world?

We, the youth, recognizing the need for a multi-sectoral approach towards the full success of the Treaty, are ready and committed to work towards the total eradication of antipersonnel mines. We support the Survivors' Call and, in particular, making the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan a national priority in each State Party - especially in affected states.

A testament to this is the involvement of youth, both in States Parties and states not party, in awareness campaigns on the dangers of mines. We further involve ourselves in the work towards the banning of cluster munitions, which, years after their use, can end up as de facto landmines, waiting to kill and maim civilians, particularly children.

We therefore call on states and international civil society to provide space and opportunities for the youth to be involved in the work towards a mine-free world. Youth involvement is crucial in the success of the Treaty, particularly with the sustainability of the work on the ground.

We, the youth, are not giving up hope that all our work toward a mine-free world will be realized in the near future. Not only do we still believe that our collective dream of walking this world without the danger and fear of stepping on a mine will come to fruition, we know it is in fact Mission Possible and we want it in our lifetime.

Press Releases

Anti-Landmine Treaty Working, Lives and Limbs Saved

Geneva, Switzerland, 12 November 2009

46
PRESS
RELEASES

Since the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty entered into force ten years ago, significant progress has been made in eradicating antipersonnel mines, but much work remains, according to Landmine Monitor Report 2009: Toward a Mine-Free World, a report by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines being released today at the United Nations.

Global use, production, and trade of antipersonnel mines have dramatically reduced. Some 3,200km² of land has been cleared of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), and new casualties each year declined significantly to 5,197 recorded casualties in 2008. Yet serious challenges remain, with more than 70 states still mine-affected today, and assistance to mine survivors falling short of what is needed.

"The norm against mine use is firmly taking hold," said Steve Goose of Human Rights Watch, Landmine Monitor's Ban Policy Editor, "Antipersonnel mines have been stigmatized as an unacceptable weapon worldwide, including by countries that remain outside the Mine Ban Treaty." Eighty percent of the world's states are party to the Mine

Ban Treaty. Thirty-nine countries—including China, India, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States—have yet to join the treaty, but most are in de facto compliance with many of the treaty's key provisions. In recent years, Myanmar and Russia are the only states using antipersonnel mines. Use by non-state armed groups decreased from a high of 19 countries in 2001 to seven countries in 2008.

Production has decreased, with 38 countries formally halting mine production, leaving only 13 countries as potential producers. No trade between states has been confirmed since 1999. For the past decade, global trade in antipersonnel mines has consisted solely of a low-level of illicit and unacknowledged transfers.

Over the past decade, States Parties have destroyed 44 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines. Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Kuwait completed stockpile destruction in 2008–2009. While 86 States Parties have completed destruction of their stockpiled mines, three states—Belarus, Greece, and Turkey—missed their stockpile destruction deadlines in 2008 and remained in serious violation of the treaty as of November 2009.

Since 1999, clearance operations have saved millions of lives through the removal of more than 2.2 million emplaced antipersonnel mines, 250,000 antivehicle mines, and 17 million ERW from an area twice the size of London (3,200km²) in over 90 countries and areas. In 2008, mine action programs cleared an area the size of Brussels (160km²), the highest annual clearance total ever recorded by Landmine Monitor. In 2009, Tunisia became the 11th State Party to complete its clearance obligations under the treaty. Even states that have not yet joined, such as Lebanon, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, have been carrying out significant mine clearance operations.

However, ensuring States Parties fulfill their treaty-mandated mine clearance obligations is proving to be a formidable challenge. According to Stuart Casey-Maslen of Norwegian People's Aid, Landmine Monitor's Mine Action Editor, "Fifteen states with mine clearance treaty deadlines in 2009 were granted extensions of up to 10 years to complete clearance, though some, such as the United Kingdom and Venezuela, exerted little effort to meet their original deadlines." The extension requests

of four more States Parties with deadlines in 2009 and 2010 will be considered at the treaty's Second Review Conference.

Although casualty rates have decreased steadily over the past decade, the total number of casualties is still far too high. From 1999–2008 Landmine Monitor identified 73,576 casualties in 119 countries/areas. Data collection is poor in many countries so the actual number of casualties is likely far higher. "The Mine Ban Treaty has led to lives and limbs saved over the past decade," said Jacqueline Hansen, Landmine Monitor's Program Manager, "in the next decade more countries must meet their clearance obligations and efforts to educate affected communities about mine hazards should be sustained to ensure no more people are killed or injured by these indiscriminate weapons."

"Victim assistance has made the least progress of the major mine action sectors over the last decade, with both funding and the provision of assistance falling short of what is needed," said Stan Brabant of Handicap International, a Landmine Monitor Editorial Board member. "Progress in the most affected states has been variable, with some countries actively engaged, and others hardly at all. Hundreds of thousands of people need more and better assistance, and they need it now."

International support for mine action totaled US\$517.8 million in 2008.

Funds came from 23 countries and the European Commission (EC). The top five donors were the EC, the US, Japan, Canada, and Norway, while the top five recipients were Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Cambodia. More than \$4 billion has been allocated to mine action since 1999.

Landmine Monitor is the research and monitoring program of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Each year since 1999 Landmine Monitor has reported on the humanitarian consequences of landmines, cluster munitions, and other ERW and scrutinized implementation of and compliance with the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. Landmine Monitor Report 2009 reports on ban policy, demining, casualties, risk education, victim assistance and support for mine action in every country in the world and eight other areas not internationally recognized as states. It also includes a special ten-year review of progress since the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty in 1999.

This report is being released in advance of the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World, to be held in Colombia from 29 November–4 December.

Landmine Monitor is coordinated by an Editorial Board drawn from five organizations: Mines Action Canada, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, Landmine Action, and

Norwegian People's Aid. It constitutes a sustainable and systematic way for NGOs to monitor and report on the implementation of humanitarian and disarmament treaties. Landmine Monitor Report 2009 and related documents are available at 01:00 GMT at www.lm.icbl.org/lm/2009 on 12 November.

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ICBL Condemns U.S. "Closed Door" Renewal of Landmine Policy

Cartagena, Colombia, 25 November 2009

48
PRESS
RELEASES

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) strongly condemned President Obama's abrupt decision to continue the Bush administration's policy of refusing to join the international treaty banning antipersonnel landmines. The announcement was made yesterday in an offhand remark by a U.S. State Department spokesperson who stated that an interagency review on the U.S. landmine policy had been concluded and a decision was made to maintain the status quo of the Bush years.

The ICBL, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate, is calling on President Obama to publicly clarify his position on this issue without delay.

"We cannot understand this shameful decision. We cannot understand the Obama administration's decision to not be transparent in this 'review' process of the landmine policy and we definitely cannot understand President Obama's decision to continue with the Bush policy", said Jody Williams, 1997 Nobel Laureate. "This decision is a slap in the face to landmine survivors, their families and affected communities everywhere – especially because in just a few short weeks, he will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize."

A further disturbing element of this announcement was that this policy review happened in a very cursory way, behind closed doors with no meaningful consultation with non-governmental organizations, legislators or NATO allies - flying directly in the face of the rhetoric of transparency that was so much a part of Obama administration's platform for change.

"The review shows a complete lack of transparency, and the outcome puts the U.S. once again on the wrong side of history and humanity," said Steve Goose, the Director of the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch and ICBL's Head of Delegation. "It is a decision lacking in vision, lacking in compassion, and lacking in basic common sense. The refusal to join the Mine Ban Treaty is completely at odds with the Obama administration's professed emphasis on multilateralism, disarmament and humanitarian affairs."

No official reason was provided for the hasty renewal of this policy except for the same arguments President Clinton used back in 1997 – reasons the ICBL deems as no longer relevant such as meeting U.S. security commitments to their friend and allies.

"Given that 158 countries, including all NATO allies, have endorsed the Mine Ban Treaty, we are not sure which allies the U.S. are concerned about meeting their security commitments to unless they are planning to align themselves with other states outside of the treaty such as Russia, China and Myanmar," said Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director and a U.S. citizen.

The Mine Ban Treaty has been signed by every other country in the Western Hemisphere except Cuba. The international stigma against the weapon has become so strong that in recent years the only government laying significant numbers of new landmines has been the abusive military government in Burma. Production of the weapon has dwindled to a few states, and virtually no government still exports antipersonnel mines.

"We are shocked and disappointed because this announcement comes just days before the opening of the Cartagena Summit, the Second Review Conference on the Mine Ban Treaty where over 1000 activists including survivors and government delegates and dozens of high-level

foreign affairs and defense ministers are expected to participate,” said Sylvie Brigot, Executive Director of the ICBL. “The U.S. is registered to participate in the Summit as an observer – its first participation ever in an official Mine Ban Treaty meeting and we had great hope that this was a sign that they were moving in the right direction. Now, with a policy seemingly concluded, we feel the U.S. is not coming in good faith and we question what they hope to achieve by attending. Regardless, we will go on without them as we have for the past decade.”

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For more information on the Cartagena Summit taking place from 29 November – 4 December 2009, go to: www.icbl.org/cartagenasummit

Mine Ban Activists Demand Concrete Action from Governments at World Summit on Landmines

Cartagena, Colombia, 30 November 2009

50
PRESS
RELEASES

Over a thousand activists, survivors, mine action practitioners, development experts and government representatives from around the world will converge in Colombia this week for the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World, including dozens of high-level government representatives and dignitaries. The Cartagena Summit, running from 29 November - 4 December, is the second five-year Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, and is aimed at evaluating progress made and identifying actions required to fully realize the vision of a mine-free world.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), with a delegation 400-strong representing every region in the world, is calling on governments to go beyond promises and declarations of support and instead to commit to concrete, time-bound actions to achieve our shared goals on victim assistance and meeting mine clearance and stockpile destruction deadlines.

«The Mine Ban Treaty has made tremendous, tangible progress in the past ten years both in alleviating

the human suffering caused by antipersonnel landmines and the prevention of new suffering,» said Steve Goose, ICBL's Head of Delegation. «It has brought about a near halt to use of the weapon globally, the destruction of tens of millions of stockpiled mines, and a huge expansion in mine clearance, risk education and victim assistance programs. This success is largely due to the ongoing collaboration between governments and civil society. This partnership needs to be reaffirmed and maintained more than ever in this next, more challenging phase in the life of the Mine Ban Treaty.»

Despite the fact that casualty rates have steadily decreased over the past decade, victim assistance has made the least progress of the major mine action sectors in terms of funding and the provision of services. Hundreds of thousands of people urgently need more or better assistance.

«Over the last ten years, we survivors have done a lot for ourselves and for other survivors. We are asking for more government action, but we are not beggars,» stated Tun Channareth,

ICBL Ambassador and survivor from Cambodia. «Concrete commitments to mine clearance, risk education, and rehabilitation and economic inclusion of survivors are in the interests of everyone as they will bring increased peace, security, and prosperity.»

Despite the clearance of over 2.2 million emplaced antipersonnel mines since 1999, meeting the 10-year treaty deadline for mine clearance is also proving to be a formidable challenge. «Fifteen States Parties with mine clearance deadlines in 2009 have been granted extensions last year, and four additional states are requesting extensions this week,» said Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director. «We need governments at this Summit to commit politically and financially to ensure that mine clearance deadlines are met and resources are in place for heavily-affected states that need them.»

Eighty percent of the world's countries are party to the Mine Ban Treaty with only 39 states - including China, India, Pakistan, Russia and the United States - having yet to join the treaty.

However, the majority of these countries are de facto complying with key treaty provisions such as no use, trade, or production of mines. Myanmar and Russia are the only states using antipersonnel mines in recent years, along with non-state armed groups in about seven countries.

«In less than ten years, antipersonnel mines have been stigmatized as an unacceptable weapon worldwide, including for countries that remain outside of the treaty», said Sylvie Brigot, Executive Director of the ICBL. «This can also be seen by increased signs of support by states not party that are attending the Cartagena Summit. This further reaffirms for us that a mine-free world is a mission possible.»

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Governments should end suffering caused by landmines and cluster bombs, bolster disability rights

Support three key treaties on International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Cartagena, Colombia, 2 December 2009

52
PRESS
RELEASES

High-level representatives from 130 countries attending the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World should redouble efforts to rid the world of antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs, as well as pledge their support to assisting victims and upholding disability rights, a global group of disarmament, humanitarian and human rights organisations said today, marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December.

More than 1,000 delegates are gathered in Cartagena to take stock of the progress made on the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, as well as to promote the entry into force of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, which includes groundbreaking provisions on assistance to victims and affected communities. The global movements to ban landmines and cluster bombs, under the banners of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), urged delegates to work toward universalisation of both treaties and

to agree on a strong Cartagena Action Plan that prioritises assistance to those affected. Survivors from all regions of the world urged governments to consider the human toll of these weapons, and to support the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

«Today we celebrate three global treaties designed to end suffering and injustice while improving lives and livelihoods in communities worldwide,» said Dr. Ken Rutherford, a landmine survivor and co-founder of Survivor Corps, which has played a leading role in the campaigns to ban antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs, as well as in the negotiations for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. «Each treaty has its own specific focus, but they are strongly linked in terms of implementation, in particular on victim assistance, which must be about human rights.»

The Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World is the name given to the second review conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, which was signed on

3 December 1997 and entered into force 10 years ago. The Treaty seeks to eradicate the use of antipersonnel mines and to end the suffering they cause. To date, 156 states are party to the Treaty, which requires that they never use landmines again and provide assistance to landmine survivors.

«On its 12th anniversary, the Mine Ban Treaty stands as a beacon of what is possible in humanitarian affairs - it has achieved unprecedented concrete results on the ground, as well as setting a model for civil society engagement in international affairs that continues to influence others and is still going strong today,» said Sylvie Brigot, Executive Director of the ICBL. «But translating words on paper into results in communities is the measure of success: key challenges remain and implementation of the three treaties must be stepped up with governments, campaigners and international organisations staying engaged for the long haul. That's the lesson from 10 years of successful work on the Treaty.»

The collaborative process that led to the adoption of the Mine Ban Treaty, as well as its text and structure, served as the basis for the successful adoption and signature of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, which marks the first anniversary of its signing in Oslo on 3 December.

«The first anniversary of the Convention on Cluster Munitions comes amid remarkable progress. We've had nine new signatures since Oslo, 24 ratifications already, entry into force is set to happen in the middle of next year and plans are well under way for Lao PDR to host the First Meeting of States Parties towards the end of the year,» said Thomas Nash, Coordinator of the Cluster Munition Coalition. «The Cartagena Summit should serve as a stark reminder of the civilian harm caused by cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive weapons, and spur governments to give their full support to universal implementation of all three treaties. In particular, states that have already joined the Mine Ban Treaty should now put their full support behind the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which shares the same humanitarian purpose.»

Participants at the summit in Colombia include heads of states and governments, landmine and cluster bomb survivors, leaders from the successful global campaigns to ban landmines and cluster bombs, and the Colombian singer Juanes, whose foundation Mi Sangre has been

outspoken on landmine and victim assistance issues.

On 2 December, the CMC, the ICBL, Survivor Corps and Fundación ArcÁngeles hosted the «Rumble in Cartagena,» a quad rugby event to highlight the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, which also marks the first anniversary of the signing of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions and the 12th anniversary of the signing of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

The organisations welcomed the government of Albania's announcement at the Cartagena summit that it has completed clearance of all landmines and cluster munitions on its territory, and called on all states to move forward on implementation of the landmine and cluster munition ban treaties, including clearing land and providing assistance to survivors, their families and affected communities.

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Background on the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty

Antipersonnel mines are munitions designed to explode from the presence, proximity, or contact of a person. Antivehicle mines are munitions designed to explode from the presence, proximity, or contact of a vehicle as opposed to a person. Landmines are victim-activated and indiscriminate; whoever triggers the mine, whether a child or a soldier, becomes its victim. Mines placed during a conflict against enemy forces can still kill or injure civilians decades later.

The Mine Ban Treaty entered into force on 1 March 1999. Since it opened for signature in December 1997 in Ottawa, 156 countries have ratified or acceded to the Convention, which has the following core aims:

- * Universal acceptance of a ban on antipersonnel mines;
- * Destruction of stockpiled antipersonnel mines;
- * Clearance of mined areas; and
- * Assistance to mine victims.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) is a global coalition in over 70 countries, working locally, nationally, and internationally to eradicate antipersonnel mines. It received the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, jointly with its founding coordinator Jody Williams, in recognition of its efforts to bring about the Mine Ban Treaty.

The First Review Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2004.

Background on the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions

A cluster munition (or cluster bomb) is a weapon containing multiple - often hundreds - of small explosive submunitions or bomblets. Cluster munitions are dropped from the air or fired from the ground and designed to break open in mid-air, releasing the submunitions over an area that can be the size of several football fields. This means they cannot discriminate between civilians and soldiers. Many of the submunitions fail to explode on impact and remain a threat to lives and livelihoods for decades after a conflict.

Since the Convention on Cluster Munitions opened for signature in Oslo in December 2008, 103 countries have signed, of which 24 have ratified. The Convention will enter into force six months after the 30th ratification, and has the following core aims:

- * Universal acceptance of a ban on the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions;
- * Destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions within eight years;
- * Clearance of affected areas within 10 years; and
- * Assistance to victims and communities affected by cluster bomb use.

Lao PDR, the world's most cluster-bombed country, is set to host the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, which could take place toward the end of 2010.

The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) is an international coalition of around

350 non-governmental organisations working in some 90 countries to encourage urgent action against cluster bombs. The membership includes organisations working on disarmament, peace and security, human rights, victim/survivor assistance, clearance, women's rights, faith issues and other areas of work. The CMC facilitates the efforts of NGOs worldwide to educate governments, the public and the media about the problems of cluster munitions and the solution through the global treaty banning the weapon.

A complete listing of ratifications and signatures of the Convention can be found at: <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/treatystatus/>

For more information on the Cluster Munition Coalition, please visit www.stopclustermunitions.org

Banning Cluster Munitions: Government Policy and Practice (May 2009 report): <http://lm.icbl.org/index.php/publications/display?url=cm/2009/>

To view a trailer video for the «Rumble in Cartagena» international quad rugby match between Colombia and the US, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYN8w1Oxt8I>

Interview opportunities

Campaigners, experts and survivors can provide interviews on landmines and cluster munitions in all geographical regions, on clearance, victim assistance, risk education, and stories of survival. Jody Williams, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate and the leadership of the international campaigns to ban antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions will also be present.

Four New Countries Declared Mine-Free at Landmine Summit

Cartagena, Colombia, 4 December 2009

Over 1000 activists, survivors and government delegates celebrated the close of the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World with the announcement that four new countries - Albania, Greece, Rwanda and Zambia - are now mine-free. The Summit closed with more than 120 governments adopting the Cartagena Action Plan, a detailed five-year plan of commitments on all areas of mine action including victim assistance, mine clearance, risk education, stockpile destruction and international cooperation.

«The Cartagena Action Plan provides a clear and concrete roadmap of what is required over the next five years to bring us significantly closer to a mine-free world,» said Steve Goose, Head of Delegation of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). «We, as civil society, commit to remain active and engaged to ensure that all of the many declarations of support for the Plan are turned into meaningful actions.»

More than a decade after the Mine Ban Treaty was first signed, a strong commitment to fully realize the vision of a mine-free world was demonstrated this week by the unprecedented levels of participation

by States Parties (including dozens of ministers and other high-level officials), states not party, mine ban activists and survivors. «It was widely agreed by all involved in the Summit that this unique partnership between governments and civil society is the key factor in the Treaty's success to date and must be continued,» said Sylvie Brigot, Executive Director of the ICBL.

Assistance to landmine survivors, their families, and communities figured prominently throughout the Summit. Victim assistance is the area of mine action that has made the least progress in the last ten years. «When it comes to delivering on promises made to victims, we are still only scratching the surface,» said Firoz Ali Alizada, ICBL Treaty Implementation Officer and landmine survivor. «Immense challenges remain to provide comprehensive and timely support to survivors and fully respect their rights.»

Australia was the only country to make a specific commitment of mine action funding of AUD 100 million over the next five years. Disappointingly, although there were many political declarations of support made, no other country matched Australia's pledge.

Reports on stockpile destruction

were also disappointing. Ukraine announced that it would not be able to meet its June 2010 deadline for destroying all its stockpiles, and may need five or more additional years. Belarus, Greece and Turkey, all of which missed destruction deadlines in March 2008, were unable to confirm when they would finish destruction. «Having four countries in serious violation of the treaty is of great concern to us and is counterproductive to the humanitarian objectives of the Mine Ban Treaty,» said Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL Treaty Implementation Director.

Throughout the week, there were many positive announcements by States Parties about being on track to meet their 10-year deadlines for mine clearance including Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria and Peru. In less positive developments, Yemen and Zimbabwe stated that they would not meet their clearance deadlines, and Eritrea and Mauritania announced they would need to request extensions shortly. Argentina, Cambodia, Tajikistan, and Uganda asked for and received extensions on their clearance deadlines.

Twenty countries that have not yet joined the Mine Ban Treaty-more than

55
PRESS
RELEASES

half of those still outside-participated in the Summit. The United States for the first time attended a formal meeting of the treaty, and announced that it has initiated a review of its landmine policy.

Highlights of the week also included a declaration from youth leaders and a call to action from landmine survivors, representing civil society's most powerful current and future advocates.

«We must never forget that this treaty was created with the hope of alleviating the humanitarian harm caused by landmines. When we discuss deadlines and technicalities related to clearance or stockpile destruction, we must not forget that our ultimate goal is to end human suffering,» said Margaret Arach Orech, ICBL Ambassador and landmine survivor. «We believe that meeting the needs and protecting the rights of survivors is a «mission possible.»

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