



As host and President Designate for the Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, Mozambique has increased its efforts to complete the clearance of its remaining mine-affected areas in order to be able to finish in late 2014. Inspired by their renewed determination to finish clearance as quickly as possible, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) will focus on completion at the Third Review Conference and beyond.

With the goal of putting the landmine scourge behind us once and for all in the near future, the ICBL has launched a “Completion Challenge” to the mine ban community, calling for the full implementation of the core elements of the Mine Ban Treaty as soon as possible, and no later than 10 years after the Third Review Conference. ICBL strongly believes that with increased political commitment, sufficient resources and the use of the latest good practices, all current States Parties can meet this challenge.

The Completion Challenge will require all States Parties with remaining major treaty obligations to assess how they can work better and harder in order to fulfill their obligations within a finite and ambitious timeframe, in some cases by reviewing their current practices to ensure they are working in the most efficient and effective manner. For example, some states working towards their original or extended mine clearance deadline might need to significantly improve the methodologies they are using, increase national resources they are investing, or otherwise take steps to heighten their level of productivity in order to finish as quickly as possible.

At the same time, completion of the major Mine Ban Treaty obligations will often rely on the provision of adequate international cooperation and assistance. Additionally, in many cases a closer, more collaborative partnership between a state or organization providing assistance and the affected state would no doubt facilitate and speed-up completion. **The ICBL therefore calls on affected and donor states and other partners to build informal “completion partnerships”** where such enhanced working relationships could enable faster progress on the Mine Ban Treaty.

Completion partnerships can cover every aspect of treaty implementation, as well as universalization of the treaty and the ban norm, although it is perhaps most easily oriented towards completion of the treaty’s mine clearance obligations. The ICBL’s [memo on the Completion Challenge](#)¹ outlines what completion can mean for the major remaining treaty tasks.

Completion partnerships will usually have a financial component, but in order to be effective and maximize its results, they should involve additional elements to build national ownership and promote greater efficiency, beginning with a political commitment by both parties to work together consistently and cooperatively on the path towards completion.

¹ http://www.icbl.org/media/699397/CommitToComplete_ENG-1-.PDF

Although the specificity of every country's situation will warrant a different response, some additional elements of a partnership could include:

- A high-level political commitment by both parties to develop a partnership for completion
- A commitment by each party to raise any major issues at the appropriate level (technical or political)
- A joint assessment of plans to finish the remaining work on the relevant treaty obligation(s), along with the challenges needing to be overcome to enable completion
- Regular bilateral working-level meetings to jointly evaluate progress and challenges, either in-country and/or in the context of multilateral meetings
- Occasional workshops to ensure proper coordination and support for the remaining work among all stakeholders (operators, all relevant ministries, other donors, etc.)
- Engagement with other partners to encourage additional support for completion, as needed

Again, every situation is different for both the donor and the affected party. Some donors contribute mostly on a bilateral basis, some through field-based organizations, and some through multilateral trust funds. Some states give large sums of funding, and some provide smaller amounts and/or material and technical assistance. But no matter how a donor provides support, or how much is given, the additional political and strategic involvement as described above can help ensure that the assistance is used in the best possible way and brings clear results on the ground.

The ICBL encourages every state that is in a position to provide international cooperation and assistance to undertake a completion partnership with one or more other states, at the level of engagement most suitable to the state and the circumstances. In this way, we will continue the Mine Ban Treaty tradition of widespread ownership and cooperation until the job is done.