

## FACT SHEET

### CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

The 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (commonly known as the Mine Ban Convention or “the Ottawa Treaty”) was opened for signature in Ottawa on 3 December 1997 and entered into force on 1 March 1999. The purpose of the Mine Ban Convention is to put an end to the humanitarian crisis created by the use of anti-personnel mines – weapons which do not discriminate between civilians and combatants and cause unnecessary suffering or superfluous injury.



#### The Scope of the Mine Ban Convention

- The Convention prohibits under any circumstances the use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel mines;
- Four years after joining the Convention each State party must destroy all its stocks of existing anti-personnel mines;
- Ten years after joining the Convention each State party must destroy all existing anti-personnel mines laid in the ground;
- The Convention calls upon States parties to provide assistance for the social and economic reintegration as well as care and rehabilitation of mine victims, for the promotion of mine awareness programmes, and the provision of mine destruction and clearance. Each State party has the right to seek assistance in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention;
- Each State party provides annual transparency reporting on measures taken to implement the Convention;
- The Convention also contains a set of compliance and confidence building measures.

#### Mine Ban Convention Implementation Machinery

Meetings of the States parties are held annually in Geneva or in a mine-affected State. These meetings consider matters with regard to the general status and operation of the Convention, take stock of the progress in its implementation, analyse challenges and take decisions on the way forward, promote cooperation and assistance and the treaty’s universalization. Informal intersessional meetings of experts are also held annually to assist the implementation of the

Convention's key issues, such as its operation, victim assistance, mine clearance, stockpile destruction, as well as cooperation and assistance.

### **The Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit**

An Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the Convention accountable directly to the States parties was established in 2001 within the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. The ISU supports the Convention's implementation machinery and office holders, provides advice and technical support on implementation and universalization to individual States parties, provide information and communications towards States not parties and the general public, keeps records of the meetings of the Convention and liaises and cooperates with international organisations and partners involved in mine action.

### **The Role of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs**

In close cooperation with the Convention's Implementation Support Unit, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) provides support and facilitates the implementation of the Mine Ban Convention at the international level. UNODA is involved in the organization of the annual Meetings of the States parties to the Convention, assisting national implementation efforts and raising awareness and promoting the universalization of the Convention.

UNODA has been delegated some key responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the Convention. In particular, UNODA is responsible for:

- arranging the convening and organization of the annual Meetings of the States parties to the Mine Ban Convention, providing administrative and logistical support, and serving as the Secretariat of these meetings;
- maintaining the database of annual national reports submitted by the States parties pursuant to article 7 of the Convention;
- supporting the Secretary-General in the implementation of his/her responsibilities aimed at facilitation and clarification of compliance under article 8 of the Convention and handling the Roster of National Experts for fact-finding missions;
- participating in universalization activities and assisting the Secretary-General in his demarches to promote the Convention among non-party States.

#### **Mine Ban Convention Implementation Facts**

- The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) – a broad-based coalition of non-governmental organizations was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for its role in the establishment of the Convention. Civil society continues to be a key partner in the implementation and promotion of the Convention
- To date, 161 States have ratified or otherwise acceded to the Convention.
- All States parties have destroyed more than 44.5 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines
- More than twenty States parties responsible for significant numbers of landmine survivors report on efforts to address survivors' needs and promote their rights. The Mine Ban Convention has led to considerable development of the very concept of victim assistance.

**For more information:** [www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/landmines/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/landmines/)