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ICBL Report on Activities

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OVERVIEW

Overview and Assessment of the Third Review Conference

Fifteen years after the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) sought to focus states' attention at the treaty's Third Review Conference, on completing the job. While progress on stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance, and promoting the ban norm have been generally good over these 15 years, the ICBL felt the need to push states to work even harder and better so that the multiple promises of the treaty can be realized in the near future. The ICBL issued a Completion Challenge to States Parties, asking them to commit to complete all major treaty obligations within the next decade. Based on research and analysis from the Landmine Monitor, the ICBL strongly believes that with renewed determination, sufficient resources and the use of good practices, it would be possible for all current States Parties to complete their major Mine Ban Treaty obligations within 10 years of the Third Review Conference. Embracing this challenge would be keeping with the mine ban community's history of pursuing bold and innovative goals, and with the urgency such work deserves.

The ICBL sought to make the Third Review Conference in Maputo the starting point of a "countdown to completion" of the Mine Ban Treaty's primary obligations. States were asked to prepare or update national plans ahead of the conference to ensure they reflect the latest methodologies and good practices that will help them best fulfill their remaining treaty

obligations. They were expected to commit publicly in Maputo to completing their remaining major treaty obligations within an ambitious timeframe, and no later than 10 years after the Third Review Conference. And the ICBL hoped they would make a genuine commitment to staying focused and to redoubling their efforts until the work is done.

ICBL Delegation
at Third Review Conference

The ICBL informed the mine ban community about the completion challenge at the 13th Meeting of States Parties in Geneva in December 2013, and subsequently worked through its national campaigners, the media, and the diplomatic community in Geneva to ensure the message was heard and understood. The ICBL also worked closely with Mozambique and its group of "Friends of the President" on the preparation of the Review Conference's final documents (including a political declaration, action plan, and program of work) to seek their inclusion of the principles embodied by the completion challenge.

The ICBL's completion challenge clearly had an impact on states' preparation for the Review Conference, and the completion theme figured prominently throughout the meeting, both in the outcome documents and statements by delegates. The impact was most significant on the official outcome documents, especially the Maputo Declaration, in which States Parties committed "to intensify our efforts to complete our respective time-bound obligations with the urgency that the completion work requires. In this connection, we aspire to meet these goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025."



The ICBL sees the agreement on a target date as a concrete, meaningful, and memorable decision from Maputo, one which shows recognition that landmine contamination is a finite problem, and that the job can be finished in a matter of years.

The 31-point Maputo Action Plan approved by States Parties commits them "to intensify their efforts to complete their respective time-bound obligations with the urgency that the completion work requires" and sets out a clear roadmap for doing so. Finally, states approved a revised

implementation machinery – including committees on mine clearance, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, and compliance – that will help states advance on the completion challenge by establishing a system of regular follow-up with individual states on compliance and implementation of the treaty, including a rigorous feedback loop on their progress reports. Many states and other delegates also publicly endorsed the concept of completion within an ambitious timeframe in their statements throughout the week. The debate

on the 2025 deadline in the political declaration engendered many enthusiastic statements of support for the goal of finishing the work of the treaty within a decade. And while few states made the type of concrete commitment pledge the ICBL had hoped for, many reported on plans that were in line with the challenge. States were most forthcoming on the treaty's stockpile destruction obligation, with all states present in Maputo committing to finishing in the next few years.



Tun Channereth, ICBL Ambassador visits art work created by West Virginia Campaign's Proud Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs

some partners expressed doubts about the possibility of "completing" victim assistance, but the ICBL made it clear that completion means having all the mechanisms and structures in place, including through broader frameworks such as those related

to health, education or labor, for victims to receive the necessary support throughout their lives. Finally, the completion challenge includes the goal of seeing no new use of antipersonnel mines anywhere in the world within a decade,

On clearance, many states made reference to completion in their statements, and the majority of those speaking reaffirmed their commitment to meeting their upcoming clearance deadlines, which all fall within the next decade. On the other hand, states already falling behind on their plans to meet those deadlines did not provide a description on what they will change in their practices to make up for lost time and move most efficiently and expeditiously towards their deadline.

There were not many specific completion pledges on victim assistance, but many states did commit to undertake or to carry on with the type of activities needed to enable sustainable and fully accessible victim assistance, which is how the completion challenge was framed. In the lead-up to the Maputo meeting,

Ayman Sorour head of Protection, with Oman delegate Mr. Abdullah Alkaabi.

which would involve progress on universalization of the treaty and the mine ban norm. Unfortunately, there have been allegations of antipersonnel mine use in recent years by States Parties, which continued to be addressed at the Review Conference. Yemen, which in late 2013 acknowledged use of mines by government forces in 2011, reported that the Military Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation to identify those responsible, also noting that clearance and mine risk education efforts have begun and assuring that this egregious violation of the treaty is being taken seriously. States Parties Sudan and Turkey responded to ongoing use allegations during the meeting; Sudan announced creation of an investigative committee while Turkey provided details of investigations of previous allegations of mine use, including a 2009 incident, which cost the lives of 7 soldiers.



The opening press conference brought together representatives of the Mozambican government, the ICRC, the Implementation Support Unit and the ICBL

Progress on universalization was much less than hoped for, with no new announcements of accession or ratification. One significant development was the United States' announcement that it is pursuing solutions that would allow it to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty in the future and that it will no longer produce or acquire antipersonnel mines. The statement marked a change in its stance on the mine ban and laid the foundation for it to join the treaty. In addition, Oman indicated before Maputo conference that it had planned to accede in the near future, though its accession was formally completed only after the Review Conference. The participation of 12 states not party to the treaty, including China and the United States, at the Third Review Conference demonstrated the strength of the global norm banning landmines. Overall, the Review Conference reaffirmed that the ICBL's ambition of no more contaminated land, no new mine casualties, and a world where survivors are assured of the services they need, is steadily becoming a reality, and can be achieved in the next decade with enough determination, hard work, and good practices. It also reaffirmed states' commitment to the principles that has made the Mine Ban Treaty shine as a model for other conventions, such as



transparency, informality, partnership, and inclusion. Partnership was stressed not only in words but in the acts of the Presidency, which was always open to civil society's input in the preparations for the conference and in Maputo. The outcome documents and decisions all recognized the ICBL's special role in supporting the treaty (along with ICRC and UN), as well as the particular need to include survivors in the work of the treaty.

Throughout the week the strong and diverse ICBL delegation made full use of plenary sessions, side events, and lobbying opportunities to communicate this message and urge states to rise to the challenge. About 135 people from 40 different countries were part of the ICBL delegation. Seventy-eight of them were males and 57 were females, and 25 were survivors of landmines or explosive remnants of war. The delegation held meetings with representatives of 47 countries, as well as the European Union.

These included lobby meetings with 11 states not party, and five high-level meetings. The ICBL made statements on all thematic issues during the plenary sessions, presented by campaigners from all regions of the world, beginning with Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate and ICBL founding coordinator Jody Williams and ending with a strong set of statements by landmine survivors. A diverse group of campaigners and staff also presented critiques of all five mine clearance deadline extension requests submitted to the Review Conference. ICBL members organized a wide variety of side events on the best ways to advance progress on all aspects of the treaty. Finally, Steve Goose, head of delegation of ICBL signed the Maputo+15 Declaration, alongside all other States Parties and traditional partners of the treaty, to reaffirm ICBL's commitment to a mine-free world.

Preparations

At the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in Geneva, in December 2013, the ICBL launched a “completion challenge,” calling on States Parties to complete their major treaty obligations within 10 years of the Third Review Conference. A memo was disseminated in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Russian, explaining the challenge and urging states to come to Maputo with a clear commitment to complete their remaining treaty obligations within a clearly defined and ambitious deadline.

During the six months preceding the Third Review Conference, ICBL campaigners in over forty countries¹ carried out advocacy actions to encourage their governments to take up the completion challenge and to participate actively in the conference. The ICBL provided national campaigners in 43 countries with small grants and campaigning tools to support their work on implementation and universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In order to brief states about the completion challenge and the importance of the Review Conference, ICBL staff and members held over 80 lobbying meetings with state representatives at the 13th Meeting of States Parties, the intersessional Standing Committee meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty in Geneva and the 4th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Lusaka, Zambia.

In the lead-up to the Review Conference, the ICBL’s website,

blog, newsletter and social media focused on the completion challenge by spotlighting key countries and thematic areas of the treaty, in particular landmine clearance and victim assistance. In-depth web pieces highlighted the impact of landmines on lives, livelihoods and development in [Turkey](#), [Mozambique](#) and [Myanmar](#). The features indicated challenges, barriers and gaps affecting landmine clearance or assistance to landmine victims in those countries, followed by recommendations for

¹Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Fiji, Georgia, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Libya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Serbia, South Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, United States, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe, as well as the area of Western Sahara.

appropriate implementation or rapid accession to the Mine Ban Treaty. A of why states should embrace the completion challenge was posted on the [Landmine and Cluster Munition Blog](#).

The “Commit to Complete” logo, available in English and Portuguese, was widely used by campaigners in the lead-up to the conference. Government delegates, partners and ICBL campaigners were [photographed](#) in front of ICBL’s “Commit to Complete” banner, at the 13th Meeting of States Parties and the 2014 intersessional meetings.

Starting in March 2014 weekly Facebook posts and tweets featured campaigners around the world photographed holding up specific commitment challenges for governments.

Aisha Saeed Mohamed, Chair of the Yemeni Mine Awareness Association challenges Yemen to commit to complete mine clearance.



Kasia Derlicka, ICBL Director launches ‘Completion Challenge’ action at the 13th Meeting of States Parties on December 5th 2013 in Geneva.

The ICBL staff focused advocacy efforts on selected target countries² by sending letters to 22 of them; coordinating advocacy missions to

Mozambican campaigner Luis Silvestre Wamusse challenges the government of Mozambique to complete mine clearance in 2014.



Myanmar and Oman; and holding bilateral meetings to encourage states to commit to complete their remaining treaty obligations or take steps towards joining the treaty. Staff and other ICBL representatives contributed to national and international events held in the context of a [European Union Council Decision](#) implemented by the treaty’s Implementation Support Unit in collaboration with a number of governments: national workshops explored pragmatic and immediate solutions to mine clearance or victim assistance challenges in Angola, Colombia, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Peru/Ecuador and Tajikistan, while the two-day event [Bridges between Worlds](#) addressed the provision of victim assistance through frameworks related to development, health or labor.

The ICBL staff played a key role in developing the Maputo Action Plan, Maputo +15 Declaration and draft

decisions on future treaty machinery and meetings. The ICBL joined the President’s group of friends that met several times to discuss these documents, and provided written and oral input to these meetings, to the three preparatory meetings and directly to the President. Input centered on creating action points, mechanisms and political commitments that would encourage States Parties to work harder and better on their major treaty obligations with the goal of finishing implementation within a decade.

²Afghanistan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Laos, Libya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Poland, Oman, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United States, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

ICBL Activities at the Third Review Conference

The ICBL campaigners played key roles in the lead up to and during the Third Review Conference to mobilize the international community to increase efforts for the implementation and universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty. ICBL actively participated in the conference by making statements, engaging with representatives of governments through lobbying meetings, by organizing a workshop on victim assistance, side events, exhibitions, and briefings for journalists and by presenting Landmine Monitor reports, factsheets and briefing papers to conference participants. Read the details of activities carried out by the ICBL in Maputo below.

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ACTIVITIES

a. Lobbying Activities

The campaign work in Maputo kicked off with a one-day advocacy workshop for one hundred campaigners on 22 June 2014. Campaigners were provided with an orientation on aims and expected outcomes of the conference. After presentation of lobbying tools such as lobbying booklet, completion challenge memos and lobbying coordination plan, campaigners were divided into regional groups (East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Caucasus, Middle East and North Africa, South and Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa) each with a coordinator to consolidate their regional lobbying plans for the week.

During the conference, ICBL campaigners conducted extensive lobbying with states on their individual progress towards implementation of or accession to the Mine Ban Treaty.



Out of the 93 registered government delegations, the ICBL held meetings with representatives of 47 countries, as well as the European Union. These included lobby meetings with 11 states not party, and five high-level meetings including with Princess Astrid of Belgium, a member of the treaty's universalization special task force. In addition, nearly 40 states were reminded of their obligation to submit their annual Article 7 transparency report.

The ICBL also continued to work with States Parties on the final documents to ensure they remained as strong as possible, especially regarding the goal for current States Parties to complete major treaty obligations by 2025. Several meetings were held during the course of the Review Conference with the President and other treaty leaders, as well as with representatives of the few states that opposed the 2025 goal.

Participants to the SNP training on ways to promote and monitor the rights of persons with disabilities

Luis Silvestre Wamusse delivers survivors' statement at high level segment of the conference.

These efforts were successful as ultimately, the outcome documents included a reference to the 2025 goal and asked states to "intensify their efforts" and act with the "urgency that the completion work requires."

b. Survivor Networks Project Training

On 21 June 2014, the ICBL-CMC's Survivor Networks Project hosted a one-day training on monitoring the Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on Cluster Munitions and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as a means to promote the rights of survivors and other persons with disabilities. It brought together 27 representatives of survivor networks from 12 countries as well as disabled persons organizations (DPOs) from Afghanistan, Lao PDR and Mozambique.

Participants shared their experiences monitoring international legal instruments to see how the lessons learned from fifteen years of work on the Mine Ban Treaty could benefit efforts to monitor the implementation of the CRPD. Survivor leaders and ICBL members Bekele Gonfa (Ethiopia), Mamady Gassama (Senegal) and Rahmatullah Merzayee (Afghanistan) along with victim assistance advocate Francky Miantuala (Democratic Republic of Congo) presented practical "how-tos" on gathering data and assessing how states respect obligations arising from international treaties.

Disability rights activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mozambique and Uganda shared their experiences in contributing to government reports and alternative NGO reports on



their country's implementation of the CRPD. Jesus Martinez, survivor leader and ICBL member, while unable to join the training, shared his practical knowledge as part of a coalition of DPOs monitoring the CRPD in El Salvador.

The event was covered by Mozambican national television, which interviewed the head of the national Mine Victim Assistance Network, Luis Silvestre Wamusse.

Participants indicated that the training helped them to better understand how human rights relate to obstacles they may face in their daily life activities. This was supported by their increased understanding of the CRPD and how the monitoring of this international legal instrument could be useful in their advocacy work. Participants also reported learning useful lessons about how the ICBL and CMC have monitored the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, that could be applicable to other treaties like the CRPD. More generally, participants appreciated having the opportunity to come together with fellow activists from around the world, in solidarity, to improve their skills. Several

participants noted the community-building aspect of the training and urged the ICBL and CMC to continue making such opportunities possible. Photos of the Survivor Network Project Training can be viewed [here](#).

c. Survivor Participation

During the Third Review Conference, survivors had an active role contributing to ICBL statements and sharing their own messages for the future of treaty implementation. Jesus Martinez wrote the ICBL statement for the session on victim assistance, recognizing the work that States Parties have done so far to establish the norm of assisting the victims of landmines but underscoring that a lot remains to be done to fulfill commitments made.³ He issued a direct call for concrete actions to ensure that the rights of all survivors are upheld, by removing barriers, ensuring equal access to all opportunities, and considering the particular challenges of survivors in remote and rural areas.

³ Jesus Martinez was unable to be in Maputo due to a visa problem and the victim assistance statement was delivered by Alvaro Jimenez from the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines.

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ACTIVITIES

During the high-level segment of the conference, five survivors of landmines and cluster munitions delivered forward-looking messages on their expectations for treaty implementation. The session opened with ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth calling for a moment of silence in remembrance of those many thousands who have died from landmines around the world. ICBL Ambassador Margaret Arach Orech (Uganda), Bekele Gonfa (Ethiopia), Umarbek Pulodov (Tajikistan), Mamady Gassama (Senegal), and Luis Silvestre Wamusse (Mozambique) spoke about access to education, peer support, participation in decision-making fora, physical accessibility of public spaces, and turning rhetoric into real action to fulfill the rights of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. Their moving, personal statements were well-received by delegates, and the President of the Review Conference expressed the wish that the words of survivors continue to guide states as they move forward on the implementation of their treaty obligations.

On the margins of the conference, survivors were also involved in lobbying meetings and side events. Mozambican survivors met with the US delegation to call for a conclusion to the landmine policy review, citing the terrible humanitarian harm that the weapon has had in their country. Many others met with government representatives from their own country or their region, including at the high level such as meetings with Princess Astrid of Belgium and ministers attending the conference.

Several survivor leaders shared their expertise as panelists for side events on removing barriers to accessibility, on survivor participation, and on the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, as well as in the Maputo edition of Bridges between Worlds, hosted by the European Union and the Implementation Support Unit. ICBL Ambassador Margaret Arach Orech opened the captivating evening performance by IncluArte, a theatre group that promotes diversity in all its forms, including the full participation of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in the lives of their communities.

d. Youth Participation

Mines Action Canada (MAC) and EDEN Social Welfare Foundation supported the participation of five youth from Taiwan in the ICBL delegation who were selected after an extensive screening process and took part in an online preparatory seminar along with a dozen members of the Youth to Youth Network. On the Saturday before the Review Conference began, the youth

completed one day of training with MAC staff on media relations, messaging and campaigning. They participated in the campaign orientation meeting and assisted staff and other campaigners with on-site preparations. During the Review Conference, they attended training sessions and rotated through four roles: assisting the campaigning team, supporting media outreach, maintaining the exhibition space, and helping out with side events. They also had the opportunity to follow plenary debates. Training sessions covered the role of survivors in the campaign, non-state armed groups, leadership, results-based management and the Cluster Munition Coalition. The youth arranged their own meeting with the delegation of the United States to advocate for the release of the landmine policy review and a speedy accession to the Mine Ban Treaty. It is expected this experience will help the youth while volunteering with EDEN upon their return.

Youth members from Taiwan with Paul Hannon and Erin Hunt from Mines Action Canada.



Luis Silvestre Wamusse head of RAVIM in Mozambique speaks to media.

issuing press releases on the first and last days of the conference, the ICBL participated in opening and closing press conferences organized by the host country.

International media coverage of the Third Review Conference was widespread and covered a range of perspectives, including stories on Mozambique as a treaty success with ongoing challenges, interviews with landmine survivors, several articles on the US landmine policy, and the ICBL's completion challenge, among others.

Coverage was recorded in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish and was carried by international news services including Agence France Presse, Associated Press, CNN, Deutsche Welle, EFE, Lusa, Reuters, Bloomberg and Xinhua. Significant coverage also appeared in Chicago Sun-Times, Der Spiegel, New York Times, Time Magazine, Wall Street Journal, and Washington Post, as well as on Al-Jazeera television, Radio France Internationale, Radio Television Suisse, Rádio e Televisão de Portugal, and Voice of America.

The New York Times notably carried three feature-length stories and an editorial between 23 June and 5 July, focusing on US landmine policy and the 27 June announcement that the US will take steps towards joining the treaty.

LOCAL COVERAGE

National television and radio broadcasts on the meeting were aired throughout the week (however they are not available online.) A range of online journal coverage is included below. The list of media coverage can be found on

The Youth to Youth Network also produced a [video statement, shown on the final](#) day of the meeting, which was directed and produced by Adriana Perez Villa, a long time youth campaigner from Spain, and featured youth from Spain, DR Congo, Colombia, Afghanistan, Norway, Iraq, Brazil, Germany, South Africa, Nepal, Georgia, Tajikistan, the Philippines, Canada, Pakistan as well as Taiwan.

e. Media Work

INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

The ICBL reached out to local, regional, and international media outlets prior to and during the week of the conference to inform them about the Completion Challenge and the historic meeting taking place 15 years after the first treaty meeting was held in Maputo. Media mobilization included meetings with regional and international media representatives and a briefing about the conference to journalists in Maputo as well as in Johannesburg. In addition to

the Third Review Conference page on the ICBL website.

National television and radio broadcasts on the meeting were aired throughout the week but unfortunately were not available online. A range of online journal coverage is included below. The list of media coverage can be found on the Third Review Conference page on the ICBL website.

Campaign messaging around the Third Review Conference and the ICBL Completion Challenge to states was broadcast to a wide audience via Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr in the run up to and during the meeting.

FACEBOOK

Messages via Facebook reached an average of 12,500 viewers per day from 1 June to 8 July and were distributed to some 20,000 individuals on the closing day of the conference. This level of reach was maintained until 2 July.

TWITTER

There were 397 tweets sent out on the @Minefreeworld account from 1 June to 8 July, with 336 of those from 23 to 27 June. Over 80% of all tweets (321 tweets) were retweeted, for a total of 931 times.

FLICKR

After signing the Maputo+15 Political Declaration, government delegates were invited to have their photographs taken, alongside ICBL campaigners, in front of ICBL's "Commit to Complete" banner. These photographs, along with others from throughout the week can be found on the [Third Review Conference gallery on ICBL Flickr](#). Highlights can be viewed on this [slideshow](#).

Landmine Monitor Publications

The Landmine Monitor as the de facto monitoring regime for the Mine Ban Treaty produced several new research products to enable states to track implementation and universalization of the treaty.



Mark Hiznay, Atle Karlsen and Loren Persi present the findings of the Monitor at the Review Conference.

On 23 June, the Landmine Monitor released several reports and infographics examining the past 15 years of ban policy, mine action, casualties and victim assistance, and issued a [press release](#). On the first day of the Review Conference, the Landmine Monitor hosted a briefing attended by more than 60 delegates to share its findings. Monitor experts also contributed to a number of maps created by the ICBL presenting research data and projecting campaign goals into the future. The reports are available in English, with select products also

translated into French, Spanish, and Portuguese on the [Monitor website](#).

As a separate publication, Norwegian People's Aid released the '[Clearing the Mines](#)' report that assesses states' progress in clearing their land of antipersonnel mines. The report is based on research by the Landmine Monitor's Mine Action team.

Monitor in the News

Landmine Monitor experts and publications were key resources for media around the globe during the Third Review Conference. A small sample of references can be found in [The New York Times](#), [CNN](#), [Aljazeera America](#), [Le Temps](#) and [LUSA](#).

ICBL global maps illustrating the achievements the Mine Ban Treaty, and the projected global landmine status in ten years based on firm commitments by states to complete major treaty obligations by 2025.



LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD: SURVIVOR PARTICIPATION POST MAPUTO HOSTED BY THE ICBL

Following a series of interactive side events over several years, this side event took the next step in the deeper consideration of survivor participation, from the disarmament campaigns to new futures. Speakers related the victories on participation and its integral role in the campaign, from the commitments developed under the Mine Ban Treaty to the legal obligations created under the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Survivor participation has helped develop a variety of capacities, though support is still needed in the face of many barriers, which must be removed. Suggestions for finding new resources for participation included collecting private national contributions and uniting with other groups that have diverse demands, but similar overall objectives.

LANDMINE MONITOR - THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE FINDINGS HOSTED BY THE ICBL

During this event leading civil society experts shared Landmine Monitor 5-year and 15-year findings detailing

ICBL & Monitor booth, and the artwork display of the Proud Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs

Side Events and Exhibitions

An intensive program of side events organized by ICBL members allowed participants to get a better understating and deeper knowledge of the landmine problem in all its aspects.

[Photographs from these side events can be viewed in our gallery.](#)

global and national developments in landmine ban policy, survey and clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war, as well as casualties and victim assistance.

MEETING THE ARTICLE 5 CHALLENGE HOSTED BY NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID
This side event provided a critical look at States Parties' efforts under Article 5, and suggested some steps that many will need to take to complete clearance as soon as possible and no longer than a decade from the Third Review Conference..

USE OF NEW MEDIA TO ENGAGE WITH ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS HOSTED BY GENEVA CALL
Geneva Call presented a set of innovative tools such as mobile phone application, video clips and illustrated booklets to engage with armed non-state actors on the ban on antipersonnel mines and other humanitarian norms.

THE FUTURE OF THE MINE BAN TREATY IN THE MENA REGION AFTER 15 YEARS OF MINE ACTION HOSTED BY PROTECTION
This event, conducted fully in Arabic, looked at efforts on mine action in MENA for the past 15 years and discussed future prospects for mine action in the region.

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.



Jody Williams and Joelle Jenny, Head of the EU Delegation, at the European Union Council Decision Update side event, 23 June 2014

THE IMPACT OF MINE BAN CAMPAIGNS IN EAST ASIA HOSTED BY EDEN SOCIAL WELFARE FOUNDATION, JAPAN CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES, KOREAN CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES/PEACE SHARING ASSOCIATION.

The speakers presented the work of the South Korean, Japanese, and Taiwanese campaigns to ban landmines, noting many differences among them despite the similarities in the socio-economic development and cultural background of their societies. During the event the strength of civil society in shaping political perceptions of landmine problems and efforts in building up regional partnerships to collectively tackle the problems were discussed. The participants had a chance to learn more about the successes and the remaining challenges of the East Asian campaigns with a goal to inspire further cooperation among other campaigns.

INTEGRATION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE INTO BROADER FRAMEWORKS: HOW DO WE MAKE IT REAL?

HOSTED BY HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL This side event presented Handicap International's field experience in bridging the gap between efforts made in the context of victim assistance and those in the context of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, showing how both advance the common goal of inclusion of persons with disabilities, in the lives of their communities, in a human rights- compliant manner.

THREE-YEAR DATA ON WORLDWIDE EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS USE AND THE CHALLENGES OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS

HOSTED BY ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE During this side event, AOAV presented data collected over three years on explosive weapons use in populated areas globally, and discussed the main findings.

One of the main challenges identified in the course of this data collection and discussed during the event was the lack of adequate and non-discriminatory assistance to victims and survivors.

EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY: LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES. SURVEY, CLEARANCE AND PRIORITIZATION. HOSTED BY THE GENDER AND MINE ACTION PROGRAMME, GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING AND MINES ADVISORY GROUP.

The side event covered lessons learned and good practices for non-technical survey based on field work as well as possible application of operational data to deliver relevant and effective mine action programming.

"IncluArte" Theatre event

Exhibitions and Cultural Events

Exhibition booths were located in a tent outside the plenary area. ICBL members presented the following exhibitions.

Mapping the Past, Present and Future – ICBL's Expectations for 2025

The ICBL presented [maps](#) showing the status of landmine use, stockpiles, contamination, and casualties in the past, present, and future, showing progress made under the Mine Ban Treaty and the ICBL's vision of the world in 2025.

Animal detection exhibition hosted by APOPO

APOPO presented its work with mine detection rats.

Exhibition booth of Handicap International

Handicap International's exhibition showed activities implemented in Mozambique by its local office.

Mozambique: answering the Mine Ban Treaty – a 12 minute film presented by Handicap International

The short movie screened in the plenary told the story of how Mozambique is implementing the Mine Ban Treaty, as seen through almost 30 years of Handicap International experience in Mozambique.

Exhibition by Proud Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs (PSALM)

A colorful exhibition prepared by 8 to 13 year-old students from St. Francis de Sales School in Morgantown, West Virginia (US), visually representing working together hand in hand and committing to a mine-free world.

The Proud Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs - ©WVCBL-Nora Sheets



It aimed to encourage all states, including the United States, to join the Mine Ban Treaty and to complete their remaining treaty obligations.

IncluArte Theatre - hosted by Handicap International and the European Union, in partnership with the Franco-Mozambican Cultural Centre with support from the ICBL and Austria.

A packed room acclaimed a 30-minute [show with live music, dance, circus and theatre](#) performed by artists with and without disabilities. Directed by Mozambican contemporary choreographer Panaibra Gabriel Canda, the event promoted full participation of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in society, diversity in all its forms and the fight against discrimination. The show was met with an enthusiastic and emotional response from the audience.

Resources Produced for the Third Review Conference

The ICBL produced [campaign tools and materials](#) to support campaigners' advocacy efforts in the lead-up to and during the Third Review Conference.

LOBBYING GUIDE: a booklet listing advocacy aims, messages and target countries, to support and steer lobbying activities during and beyond the conference

MAPS: a series of four maps, displayed at the Review Conference, illustrating landmine use, contamination, casualties, and stockpiles before entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty, today, and projecting the ICBL's 2025 Completion Challenge.

LANDMINE MONITOR PUBLICATIONS: the Landmine Monitor released a portfolio of publications for the Third Review Conference. All based on latest research findings, these publications provide information on ban policy, mine action, casualties and victim assistance.

VIDEOS: a Youth to Youth Network [video statement](#) directed and produced by Adriana Perez Villa, a long time youth campaigner from Spain, and coordinated by Erin Hunt

"IncluArte" Theatre event, 3RC

Elke Hottentot presenting at the HI side event "The integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks"



of Mines Action Canada, featured youth campaigners from around the world and was screened on the final day of the meeting. ICBL member Handicap International released a video entitled Answering the Mine Ban Treaty, covering what Mozambique has achieved since hosting the First Meeting of States Parties in 1999.

OTHER ADVOCACY RESOURCES: An updated ICBL leaflet in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Completion Challenge and Partnership Memos in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Memo on Article 7 annual transparency reports. T-shirts and coaster puzzle with "Commit to Complete" logo, distributed to government delegates and campaigners.

Statements

The ICBL weighed in on all thematic areas during the Review Conference with nine statements delivered by campaigners from all regions of the world, starting with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and ICBL founding coordinator Jody Williams. A diverse group of campaigners and staff presented critiques of all mine clearance deadline extension requests submitted to the Review Conference. Five landmine and cluster munition survivors spoke during the high-level segment, and young campaigners presented a short video calling for states to live up to the promises of the treaty.

Aisha Saeed, Mamady Gassama, Jody Williams and Umarbek Pulodov, speak on behalf of ICBL



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18 ACTIVITIES



Statement on Universalization

Maputo, Mozambique, 23 June 2014

Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty

We have come a long way in universalizing the treaty and establishing a universal norm against antipersonnel landmines. One hundred and sixty-one countries are on board and landmines have been stigmatized all over the world. Countless lives have been saved. In many countries that used to be contaminated by landmines, farmers no longer have to fear to use their lands, children can walk freely to school, and refugees can return to their villages without stepping on landmines. Thanks to the Mine Ban Treaty and to all states that have joined it.

Five years ago in Cartagena, States Parties reaffirmed their commitment to universalize the treaty and strengthen its norms. Since the Cartagena Summit, five more nations, Finland, Poland, Somalia, South Sudan and Tuvalu, have ratified or acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. And we are looking forward to see Oman officially acceding very soon if not this week.

This is slower progress than we would have liked to have seen over the last few years, however, we need to acknowledge that most states are already in the room, and we only have 36 countries left to help come through the door. We know those 36 countries will ban landmines; it is only a matter of time, it is inevitable. Most of the states not party have been engaged in the meetings of the treaty for many years; 17 of them attended the last Meeting of States Parties. And most of them have been voting in favor of the annual UN General Assembly Resolution calling for universalization of the treaty. Indeed, many of the states not party have for many years expressed their interest in joining at some point – and here at the Third Review Conference, we can surely say that point in time should have come long ago. Here are a few examples, and we hope to hear updates from them this week on when they will join:

The United States: 20 years ago the US called for the elimination of antipersonnel landmines but has not taken action to ban them. In 2009, the ICBL was encouraged when the US informed States Parties that it would review its policy on banning antipersonnel mines. But nearly five years have passed without a conclusion to the review. In 2012, a US representative informed States Parties a decision was expected to be announced “soon” but 18 months have been passed without announcement of any decision. We see no excuse for the US—which has not used antipersonnel mines in more than two decades—to wait even longer, it is past time for the US to ban landmines and accede to the Mine Ban Treaty.

Libya: Back in 2011, the ICBL was encouraged after receiving information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Libya that there was support for the Mine Ban Treaty. At that time, Libya was waiting for the new legislature to begin. That is happening now happened and Libya just recently signed the Arms Trade Treaty which indicates that the government can join international treaties.

Nepal has given repeated statements of support for joining the Mine Ban Treaty, including by several Ministers for Peace & Reconstruction over the past years, and every major political party has pledged to support banning landmines as well as accession to the treaty. Nepal finished clearance of landmines already. So it is a mystery to us why Nepal has not taken the final step and joined the treaty.

Sri Lanka has made statements on several occasions in support of joining the treaty. For example, in 2012 the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence reportedly said that the Defence Ministry was ready for Sri Lanka to sign the treaty. It is unclear to the ICBL why Sri Lanka has not yet made the decision to accede.

Sami Ibrahim delivering the ICBL statement in plenary, 26 June 2014

Palestine has been expressing its intention to join the treaty since last year, and we were disappointed that it was not among the list of conventions that Palestine recently announced its intention to join.

Lao PDR and Lebanon have expressed support for the principles of the treaty on many occasions, and they are among the leaders in banning cluster bombs. But they have not taken any serious steps toward joining the Mine Ban Treaty.

Morocco has expressly stated that it is in de-facto compliance with most treaty obligations, so it should be a simple step for Morocco to accede. Many of the other States not parties have been publicly supporting the objectives of the treaty, and some have said that they implement the treaty’s key provisions. Other states have been taking practical steps including clearing landmines and providing assistance to landmine victims, and some have ceased production and adopted moratoria on transfers. However, only when all these states have acceded and implemented the treaty we can be assured of a mine free world.

The ICBL has issued a completion challenge to the mine ban community, which includes a call for no new use of antipersonnel mines by any actor, anywhere, within a decade. In other words, we need to see universal respect for the mine ban norm, and the best way to ensure the permanency of such respect is through universal adherence to the treaty.

In the meantime, we are sadly still seeing new use of antipersonnel mines, albeit on a limited scale, by states not party and non-state armed groups alike. Syria and Myanmar were both confirmed to be using landmines in 2012 and 2013. Non-state armed groups used antipersonnel mines in at least eight countries (Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia and Yemen). As well, with 32 of the 36 states not parties believed to have stockpiles of mines, and 12 states (China, Cuba, India, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, the US, and Vietnam) maintaining the capacity to produce, the risk



of further use continues. We call on all these states to set a firm timeline for joining the Mine Ban Treaty, and to take meaningful interim steps in the meantime, including a moratorium on use and initiation of stockpile destruction.

The draft Maputo Action Plan provides a clear guidance for the States Parties to support universalization of the treaty and its norms. The four agreed upon actions on universalization of the treaty will make a huge difference if they are fully implemented. We challenge all States Parties to live up to their commitments outlined in the Maputo Action Plan to protect and promote the treaty and its widespread norms by constantly reaching out to and proactively engaging with states not party.

Thanks to Belgium the coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group, His Royal Highness Prince Mired, Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid, Canada, France, Palau, and the ICRC for your work on universalization. However, the level of progress that is expected by the Maputo Action Plan over the next five years only can be achieved if all States Parties actively engage in the work of universalization of the treaty.

Universalization of the treaty remains a key objective for all of us and the ICBL is reaffirming its commitment to continue working together with all of you for full universalization of the treaty and its norms in coming years. Thanks

Statement on Mine Clearance

Maputo, Mozambique, 24 June 2014

Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty

The international mine action community has made significant strides towards putting an end to the suffering caused by antipersonnel mines. A humanitarian crisis has, in the overwhelming majority of cases, been successfully reduced to a development problem.

Twenty-seven states and one other area have declared themselves compliant with Article 5 since the Mine Ban Treaty entered into force, and more do so with every passing year. Today, 56 states plus three other areas still have an identified threat from antipersonnel mines. Of these, thirty-two are parties to the Mine Ban Treaty.

The Mine Ban Treaty is truly a landmark in humanitarian disarmament and a model for effective action in tackling weapons with indiscriminate effects. Thus far, however, implementation of Article 5 has been a rocky road in far too many states, despite generous support from donors, a generalized willingness to innovate and learn among demining practitioners, and a “toolbox” promoted as offering a tool for every demining challenge.

Today at the Third Review Conference, we have an opportunity to take stock. Yes, to celebrate achievements and progress, but first and foremost to set a firm direction for the remainder of the decade. The ICBL has challenged all States Parties to complete their Article 5 obligations within a decade of the Third Review Conference, a goal that can be met. If efforts are well directed to areas of actual mine contamination, we should be left with only a handful of affected states in five years’ time. Out of this handful of states, we are confident that every State Party with contamination can finish clearing their known mined areas by 2025, barring armed conflict that prevents access, if operators, donors, and national authorities employ the right resources in the right way.

This is a reasonable goal, it is doable, and states should not be afraid to make this ambition clear in the Maputo

Action Plan. We have heard a few voices raising doubts about whether this 2025 target should be mentioned in the outcome documents, especially in the Maputo Action Plan. The ICBL would like to offer a few thoughts on this point. First, all current mine-affected States Parties have legal clearance deadlines that fall before 2024, so they should already be planning for completion within the decade even if they have the legal right to seek more time. Second, the 2025 date would not be an impediment to bringing more states on board the treaty as it only applies to current States Parties. Any new state joining after this Conference would simply have its legal deadline to respect.

Finally, we find such a lack of vision deeply disappointing. Do those states speaking out against the 2025 goal not want to see all States Parties finish their Article 5 duties by then? Do they not hope that states will work harder and better on cleaning up this most dangerous legacy of war? And if it is about their own lack of optimism about, or drive to, finish clearance within a decade, could they not refrain from blocking an ambitious vision for everyone else?

We keep hearing about the so-called risks of including the goal. States should also consider the real humanitarian impact of not working our hardest to finish by this time.

Again, we believe it is technically possible for all States Parties to meet the 2025 challenge. But in order for this to happen in several states, things will need to change.

States will need to prioritize mine action – in their development goals, through national funding, and politically. Indeed the primary obstacle to effective and efficient clearance of mined areas is often not funding per se, much less the weather or difficult terrain, but lack of political will and prioritization to get the job done.

Sheila Mweemba delivering ICBL statement in plenary, 24 June 2014

Mine Action Centers will need to task operators to focus on truly contaminated land, starting with areas with the highest impact on communities. In an effective mine action program, survey capacity is put front and center. Find the mined areas, and the most difficult part of the demining task has been achieved. To do so, however, requires qualified and trained surveyors who combine knowledge of demining with community liaison skills and a good understanding of risk management. We have enough collective experience in survey that there should be absolutely no more clearing of land with no evidence of mine contamination.

States reporting on mine action progress have been hindered by basic failures in mine action data management; yet fixing these failures has not always been accorded the priority it would merit. It is simply astonishing that still far too many operators, let alone the states in which they conduct mine action operations, are unable to disaggregate land release into cancellation of mined areas by non-technical survey, reduction by technical survey, and release by clearance -- or even to distinguish battle area clearance from mine clearance. Every mine action program should be able to do this at the click of a button. In any event, donors should always demand such disaggregated data, and they should receive it.

Certain national and international mine action programmes incorporated gender issues at different levels, such as taking the needs and priorities of men,

women, girls and boys into consideration when planning survey, clearance operations, and handover activities -- and including women in mine action teams. Some also present sex and age disaggregated data, while others intend to use such data to inform programming. While these represent important first steps to achieving gender mainstreaming in mine action, more progress is needed to make sure interventions benefit all.

With these challenges in mind, the ICBL welcomes the development of a Committee on Clearance. We believe that the committee’s mandate -- to pay greater and more systematic attention to progress by mine-affected States Parties -- will help shine the spotlight on these issues.

Mr/Ms Chair -- We are a community used to, and in fact thriving on, challenges, including the original one to create the ban in the first place. People who were cynical then were proved wrong. We got the ban in record time, and the world is much better off for the ambition and foresight the ban community had. A similar ambition should drive clearance work beyond this conference, so that we can collectively declare completion of the Article 5 challenge within a decade. Thank you.



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Statement on Victim Assistance

Maputo, Mozambique, 24 June 2014

Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty

The Mine Ban Treaty has been remarkably successful in establishing a norm against the use of antipersonnel landmines. This has saved countless lives. It is also the first disarmament treaty to recognize the rights that victims have and to establish expectations that these rights will be upheld and the needs of victims met.

As an antipersonnel landmine survivor, I have lived through the pain caused by an incident with this weapon, and I continue living with social discrimination and physical barriers. I am also a witness to the pervasive and sometimes systematic violation of the most basic and fundamental rights of survivors and other persons with disabilities. I feel the moral imperative to demand that States Parties move beyond the talk that we have already heard; to move to concrete actions that will fulfill victim assistance commitments and guarantee our rights.

It is important for all states to join the Mine Ban Treaty, as well as other instruments protecting human rights such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to create new national laws based on these obligations. But if these laws are not implemented and enforced, they become just words on paper and, in the end, survivors and other persons with disabilities continue their lives with the same struggles. Please, we, the survivors here today, ICBL campaigners and civil society, no longer want to hear speeches of goodwill. If you talk about creating new laws or plans to assist survivors by promoting our rights and meeting our needs, also say that you have the resources to implement those plans -- otherwise, it is just another speech.

Survivors and other persons with disabilities should not be looked upon as objects that must be repaired or rehabilitated. Instead, look at us as people just like everyone here: a person with rights, with inherent dignity as sacred as anyone's and the right to participate in all decisions that affect us. Our disability is just a condition and when that is understood, it will also be understood

that assisting survivors and their families is not just about writing laws, healing their wounds, and rehabilitating them. Victim assistance, in any and all frameworks through which it is implemented, must go further. It must ensure that survivors have the opportunity to have a dignified life, to be included in their family and their community, and to participate in all aspects of their country - economically, politically, and in every other way.

How, you may ask, is this best achieved?

We survivors are not asking for pity, charity or favors. We are asking governments to take actions to uphold our rights just like everyone else's; our rights to go to school, have a job, access health care, and participate in sports and leisure activities, among others. At this point in the 21st century, in most countries where survivors live, it is still not possible for a person in a wheelchair to use public transport. Then how can that person travel to school or work? We see boys and girls who are not allowed to go to school or people who are denied employment because of their disability. Survivors, often living far from urban centers, must also have all these rights realized.

The ICBL has issued a completion challenge to States Parties – to fulfill their Mine Ban Treaty obligations in the next decade. In the next 10 years, or sooner, the types of barriers I have described should be removed so that we gain full, legally protected access to the services and programs we need. Now and for the life of all survivors, our voices must be a part of any discussion on development or disability plans that will affect our well-being. This is what completion could mean for victim assistance. Ultimately, taking a rights-based approach, it should mean the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all survivors, without discrimination.



Francky Miantuala delivering an ICBL statement, 23 June 2014

Victim assistance has promoted and must continue to promote the rights of survivors and to ensure access to existing services for all in need. This is the best way of lifting survivors, their families, and other persons with disabilities out of extreme poverty and into the center of their communities. We will continue advocating and monitoring to see that it gets done.

My colleagues from the Landmine Monitor have assessed the situation in all states with significant numbers of survivors since 1999. Their reports identify some main challenges and recommend pragmatic actions that can be taken immediately to improve the lives of survivors. They are available outside this room in English, French and Spanish. I invite you to take a copy; we welcome the opportunity to discuss these challenges and actions with you. Thank you.



Ugandan head of delegation with Margaret Arach Orech, ICBL Ambassador

Statement on Stockpiles and Their Destruction

Maputo, Mozambique, 23 June 2014
Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty

The requirement for the 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. In 1999, this prospect seemed especially daunting as the Landmine Monitor estimated that as many as 130 states possessed stockpiles of antipersonnel mines.

Since the entry-into-force of the Treaty, 87 States Parties have officially declared completing destruction of their stockpiles, collectively destroying more than 47 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines, including more than 250,000 antipersonnel mines destroyed in 2013.

This preventive mine action has potentially saved millions of lives, as a mine never laid can never claim a victim. It has also potentially saved hundreds of 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. 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.

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.

For nine States Parties, actions are still needed for them to fulfill their obligation. We foresee no obstacle for any of these states to meet the ICBL's "Completion Challenge."

Amélie Chayer delivering an ICBL statement, 23 June 2014

Tamar Gabelnick congratulates the Greek delegation for committing to complete their stockpile destruction obligation

Six of these states are known to possess nearly 11 million antipersonnel mines: Belarus, Finland, Greece, Guinea Bissau, Poland, and Ukraine. Finland and Poland are best placed fulfill the obligation the quickest, even by this year, given their capacities. All that is needed is political will. Somalia, while initially declaring not to possess any antipersonnel mines, is in the process of assessing and confirming whether any are currently possessed. Equatorial Guinea and Tuvalu, two States Parties that have not submitted initial transparency reports, have not made an official declaration, but are not thought to possess stockpiles.

Most important are the three States Parties that must come into compliance after having failed to complete the destruction of their stockpiles by their four year deadline. We recognize that the three States Parties are not in willful violation of the treaty, none desire to maintain an operational stockpile of antipersonnel mines, and each has been trying to surmount particularly difficult technical, financial, and even legal hurdles. The efforts undertaken to destroy their mines are beginning to bear fruit with the recent opening of a destruction facility in Belarus and the destruction of over 50,000 antipersonnel mines by Greece. This is good news indeed. We particularly welcome Greece's announcement that it plans to finish destruction by the end of 2015 in the spirit of the completion challenge.

On the other hand, the situation with Ukraine, both in the sense of securing funding as well as the turmoil authorities face, presents grave concerns about its will and ability to finish the job. It's not reassuring in the current political climate that mines are still not being destroyed in Ukraine. We call on the EU and Ukraine to finalize all necessary agreements so that funds promised since 2010 can be transferred and destruction can quickly begin.



The ICBL also has concerns about the possibility of there still being stockpiles in Yemen, Sudan, and South Sudan. Evidence of recent use of antipersonnel mines in those countries raises these concerns, although it is unclear who might exercise control over any remaining stocks.

Another concern is the significant number of states retaining mines under Article 3. The ICBL and many States Parties have consistently questioned the need for live mines for training purposes. Eighty-four States Parties have declared that they do not retain any antipersonnel mines, including 30 states that stockpiled antipersonnel mines in the past.

A total of 75 States Parties have reported that they retain a combined total of more than 169,000 antipersonnel mines for training and research purposes. Three (Finland, Turkey, and Bangladesh) have each retained more than 12,000 mines. Six retain between 5,000 and 7,000; 33 retain between 1,000 and 5,000; and, 33 retain less than 1,000.

On the positive side, since 1999 States Parties have destroyed more than 97,000 mines that were retained for training, including nearly 3,400 in 2013. Most were destroyed during training and research activities, but many were also destroyed when states re-assessed the number actually needed for permitted purposes.

However, too many States Parties 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 and the draft Maputo Action Plan have addressed this matter, and States Parties should confront it in a vigorous and transparent manner. In consideration of the ICBL's Completion Challenge we call on all States Parties to review their retention policies with the goal of destroying all retained mines within a decade, when we hope there will be no more need for training and research.

Finally, the ICBL continues to be concerned about stockpiles in states not yet party, since these mines present an even larger risk of being planted in the ground by a state military or non-state armed group. Up to 32 of the 36 states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty may still stockpile tens of millions antipersonnel mines, with the vast majority belonging to just two states: China and Russia. Encouragingly, some of these states have reported the destruction of some stockpiles since 1999. This shows the importance of continuing our efforts to universalize the treaty and to stigmatize the weapon thoroughly. Thank you.

Campaigners from affected states and European countries meet with the delegation of the European Union

Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance

Maputo, Mozambique, 24 June 2014
Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty

Over the past two decades, international support for mine action has increased to some US\$500 million annually, meaning that several billion dollars have been dedicated to mine action since the treaty came into force. According to the Landmine Monitor, early indicators suggest a decline in international support, from \$497 million in 2012 to almost US\$435 million in 2013. But rather than focusing on levels of funding, we would like to have a discussion about value for money that could lead to real improvement across the sector.

Donors are rightly looking for very high value for money, and for clear reporting on what is happening with their investments in protecting communities and fulfilling international obligations. The mine action sector must work together to improve our individual and collective efficiency and effectiveness. This means all organizations and stakeholders improving their value for money, accountability and transparency, and being open to making tough and difficult decisions. If we don't do this, we will fail.

Fifteen years after the treaty entered into force, each mine-affected state should have a clear picture of remaining mine contamination, but many do not. And many more should have already completed their survey and clearance. Many states have made great progress. But in many others, commitment by national governments is inadequate to meet its Article 5 requirements.

In some cases, this lack of national political support has led to donors or operators stopping funding programs out of frustration. The result of this sort of breakdown is not



just a failure of treaty commitments. The results are felt by

individuals and communities living with mine contamination – the people we came together in the first place to protect. Failing mine affecting communities and mine survivors is just not acceptable. Funding demining in states that are unable or unwilling to target clearance to known contamination is also an unacceptable waste of time and money, not to mention a terrible failure to protect communities still at risk. Things are changing but they need to change faster.

Vast sums of money have been committed to developing managerial and coordination capacity in affected countries. Sometimes this has worked well – Afghanistan is one clear example. But there are many cases where funding and support has had poor results and others where there has simply not been acceptable progress in the identification and clearance of mined areas. It is time to reform – and in some cases phase out - expensive capacity assistance projects when they are proving inefficient or ineffective. We need to find better ways to create sustainable national capacity in states with a long-term need for survey and clearance. This involves making difficult decisions, but they are responsible ones and they need to happen. We can't go on wasting money while landmines affect communities in over 50 countries every single day.



The Mexican delegation with ICBL campaigners Alvaro Jimenez from Colombia and Maria Pia Devoto from Argentina. In Maputo, Mexico continued its strong advocacy for States Parties to receive sufficient international cooperation and assistance.

Evaluation and the use of evaluation data to inform decision making can play a significant role in improving efficiency, effectiveness and impact in mine action programming. The mine action should follow the example set in the broader development community, drawing on existing good practice and the IMAS.

Mr. President, on support for victim assistance, we would like to repeat our call to donors supporting victim assistance through broader disability and development frameworks to demonstrate how such mainstreamed contributions reach the most vulnerable victims, including rural and remote areas. We ask donors to require solid reporting from beneficiaries on whether the support has a sustained impact on victims, regardless of the modalities through which services are provided

On stockpile destruction, where international support is a critical factor for both Belarus and Ukraine to finish destruction, we also see a need for donors to stay more involved in monitoring progress. For example, EU member states have authorized funding for Ukraine's destruction, funding which has been bogged down in internal EU and Ukrainian bureaucracies since 2010. Here too, states should voice their desire to see their money used for its intended purpose without any further delay.

Mr. President, we as a community decided long ago that ridding the world of landmines and addressing their legacy would be a joint effort. We ask states to recommit to this goal but to turn that commitment into action as well as words. Let's work more closely together to ensure the best possible use of international cooperation and assistance. Let's let ourselves get better. We have no time – or resources - to waste, and failing is not an option.

Turning to the UN, we have welcomed the IACG's efforts to create a monitoring and evaluation system to better assess their progress against their mine action strategy. But establishing an M&E framework is not enough. Findings need to be used to prove and improve progress and progress needs to be shared with the international community. ICBL is still concerned with the levels of accountability and transparency associated with the significant funding going to UN mine action operations and VTF, and we hope the M&E framework will improve it. ICBL repeats its calls to the IACG to prove and improve accountability in UN and VTF expenditure, demonstrating added value, value for money and results.

We call on donors to take a similar approach with all partners and stakeholders. With national authorities, with national and international organizations - NGO or commercial - as well as the UN. Are they getting value for their money? Are they getting a clear, meaningful report on results for mine clearance? Is a sustainable capacity being built in those states with long-term programs? The answers to these questions should not just be yes or no. They should promote discussion, improvement, decisions and change. They should help us all promote the best possible use of mine clearance resources. There is absolutely no reason to delay or be defensive. It is time to make cooperation and assistance as strong as we can. Such proactive engagement is the idea behind our call for genuine completion partnerships.

ICBL Statement on Transparency

Maputo, Mozambique, 26 June 2014 (submitted for the record)

Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its research arm the Landmine Monitor are among the most frequent users of states' Article 7 reports. Our researchers and campaigners read all States Parties' reports very carefully. We depend on the information states provide to properly monitor and advocate for full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. So we have an interest in making sure reports are timely, accurate, and comprehensive, and we'd like to share some observations in that regard.

First, we are disheartened to see that Article 7 submission rates have been declining steadily over the past decade, from a high of 79% for calendar year 2003 to a low 53% for 2012. This figure shows a disturbing disregard for states' legal reporting obligation, which applies every year whether a state has other remaining treaty requirements or not. We count 84 states that have not turned in their annual update on 2013 activities, which were due by the end of April, meaning that the submission rate now stands at only 47%. In addition, there are still two countries – Equatorial Guinea and Tuvalu – that are late in turning in their initial Article 7 report. We cannot have a full picture of the status of the convention without these initial reports.

At the same time, we are pleased to see some states not parties submitting voluntary reports in recent years as a sign of their support for the goals of the treaty, including Azerbaijan, Lao PDR, Morocco, and Palestine. We also note the voluntary report submitted by the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, which provides information on its remaining stockpile, its stockpile destruction activities, and its mine clearance efforts.

In terms of quality, we often see data that is incomplete, unclear, inconsistent over time, or absent on relevant treaty obligations. For example states should report on mines discovered or seized after the completion of stockpile destruction programs and on their destruction, but often public information on such discoveries are included in states' Forms B and G, which were modified to encourage such reporting. As well, of the 78 states retaining mines under Article 3, only around 20 have used the voluntary portion of Form D to report on past and planned use, despite the call to do so in the Cartagena Action Plan. The ICBL has called for states to provide more voluntary information on treaty implementation through Form J, including on victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, foreign stockpiles, and steps taken to ensure that claymore-type mines cannot be used in victim activated mode.

Poor information and irregular reporting has been especially problematic for reporting on Article 5 obligations. With this in mind, we strongly favor the creation of the proposed Article 5 committee, which was designed in part to provide an incentive for better reporting by creating a state-to-state "feedback loop."

The ICBL believes that states could also be motivated to improve reporting through a greater appreciation of the value of the reports – for others and for themselves. For example, the Landmine Monitor team uses states' reports intensively to produce our annual report and country profiles, which describe the status of all states vis-à-vis the treaty. The President of the Mine Ban Treaty and the ISU similarly depend on the reports to produce annual progress reports.

HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium with ICBL campaigners from South East Asia.



seeking additional support, the reports show donors what work remains to be done, and what specific problems might benefit from international support. Again, the more details states report on progress and challenges, the better others will be able to support them in the future.

Both the Monitor and Progress Reports then help inform a larger community of interested states and other actors on the individual and collective status of the treaty. The various treaty committee co-chairs use the reports to help support states facing implementation challenges or to share good practices among states. The media and activists also look to the reports to raise awareness about the treaty among an even larger group.

So the more clarity states give on their status and activities, the better the outside world will understand the situation in their country and the treaty as a whole. Indeed, there are many states, including those outside the Mine Ban Treaty, that want to see the impact of the treaty and how well it's being respected by States Parties. Progress is seen as a good confidence-building measure for states in the same region, and can be beneficial for universalization.

Donors also make use of the individual and compiled reports to help them assess requests for assistance. For those states receiving aid already, the reports showcase what has been accomplished with such support. For those

Last, but not least, the reporting state itself should be an active user of its own reports. As part of good management practices, the data on various treaty obligations should be regularly collected, easily accessible, and simple to extract. If, in preparing a report, a state finds this is not the case, then the report will have helped identify a need to improve data management. In addition, we encourage states to use their own reports to keep track of progress over time, especially relative to benchmarks in plans, such as those submitted with mine clearance extension requests.

So overall, we encourage States Parties to look at reporting not as a burden but an exercise with many benefits for themselves. It may take a bit of time, but the investment is certainly worth it. And of course for states with no remaining convention obligations, reporting is very quick and simple to do. We would like to end by welcoming the Maputo Action Plan language on transparency, which it rightly notes "is essential to achieving the Convention's aims." Thank you.

Statement on Final Documents

Maputo, Mozambique, 26 June 2014

Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty

We would like to add our congratulations to Mozambique for their extraordinarily hard work on producing these documents. We believe all three documents give several strong messages: First, that we have more work to do over the coming years to maintain strict adherence to the norms and the requirements of the Mine Ban Treaty. Second, that partnership lies at the heart of the convention's success. And finally, that completion is in sight as long as we work harder and better over the coming years.

Mr. President, the ICBL is convinced that the inclusion of a decade-long completion challenge in the outcome documents can help drive forward the work of the treaty, which many in the ICBL feel has been lackluster in recent years. We would have liked to see the 2025 date included in the Maputo Action Plan, and we would have liked to see stronger language in the Political Declaration, but we hope all States Parties will accept the current language despite its shortcomings, and then – most importantly – show by their actions that they fully embrace the completion challenge.

Mr. President, we feel very strongly that including the 2025 date in the outcome documents shows to the world that we are serious about increasing our efforts. It shows our recognition that landmine contamination is a finite problem, and the job can be finished in a matter of years. A date is something we will remember, that we will take home from Maputo because it is concrete and meaningful. A date is something affected states should welcome, as they can use it to push donors and those approving national budgets to provide the support they need. And most importantly, a date shows that states are committed to working harder and better because they know that the real winners in this debate will be people

that are still living with the daily risk of landmines. The sooner we finish the job, the sooner they can live in safety.

Mr. President, We have always been an ambitious community, setting the bar high and inspiring others in the disarmament world and beyond through our bold vision. Let's stay that way.

Statement During the High-Level Segment

Maputo, Mozambique, 27 June 2014

Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty

Distinguished delegates, colleagues, and friends, It gives me great pleasure to return to Maputo, where I had the honor of delivering the keynote address for the ICBL in 1999 during the First Meeting of States Parties. That was a very exciting time, one filled with ambition and creativity, with deep commitment and conviction, and with great optimism that the new form of diplomacy we were pioneering, now called humanitarian disarmament, would succeed in ending the global scourge caused by antipersonnel landmines. We were convinced that the unprecedentedly close partnership of civil society, governments, the ICRC and UN agencies would prevail and accomplish things that the many naysayers said would be impossible: a halt to the use, production, trade, and stockpiling of antipersonnel mines, clearance of mine affected nations in our lifetime, no new mine victims, and a world where the rights of survivors are respected and their needs met.

Fifteen years later, our progress toward all of these objectives is nothing short of remarkable. The weapon has been thoroughly stigmatized, so that almost all those still outside the treaty already comply with its key provisions. Use, production, and trade are almost non-existent. In the past few years, the only government forces to lay antipersonnel mines were in Syria and Burma, governments that flout international opinion and norms. More than 47 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed by States Parties, and tens of millions more by those not party.

Twenty-seven states have declared their land cleared of mines, with thousands of square kilometers of contaminated land now available for productive use. The mine ban movement gave birth to the concept of humanitarian demining, now a highly developed field

with international standards. In 1999, the common estimate was 26,000 people killed or injured by mines and explosive remnants of war each year. Today, we record fewer than 4,000. The priority now given to and the advances in victim assistance are the result of States Parties' commitment to this emerging norm.

And the model of humanitarian disarmament has been succeeding as well, most notably in the case of cluster munitions, but also, in varying respects, with the child soldiers campaign, the International Criminal Court, and the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as the emerging international efforts on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and killer robots.

But we are all also acutely aware that we have not crossed the finish line in the ban on and eradication of antipersonnel mines. Indeed, in recent years, concerns with treaty compliance have risen, most notably with Yemen's acknowledgement of use by government forces in 2011-2012, and use allegations in Sudan and elsewhere. There are also the missed stockpile destruction deadlines, the missed mine clearance deadlines, the very low rate of transparency reporting, and the mines being retained that are not being used for permitted purposes.

States Parties cannot shy away from these compliance issues, and how States Parties address them is key to the strength, credibility, and humanitarian impact of the treaty. In this respect, we are very pleased with the creation of a new compliance committee to lead the way in identifying, examining, and resolving compliance concerns in a cooperative manner—while bearing in mind that all States Parties must be involved and take responsibility for ensuring full implementation of and compliance with the treaty.

Steve Goose head of ICBL delegation delivering high level statement, 27 June 2014



Mr. President, despite the fact that so many States Parties have missed their Article 5 clearance deadline and asked for an extension, or extensions, we believe that the end to contamination in States Parties is in sight. Most should be able to complete in five years, and all within 10 years. To make this happen, states will need to prioritize mine action in their development goals, through national funding, and politically. Political will and prioritization are the keys; they can overcome the laundry list of obstacles to clearance we have heard over the years. We are pleased that States Parties have expressed great concern that Ethiopia has failed to submit an extension request, and thus is in danger of violating the treaty.

With respect to victim assistance, while for the most part governments have the plans and the tools, they need to do much more to uphold their commitments to the rights of survivors, including the rights to education, employment, and health care. The need is especially acute for survivors living far from urban centers to have these rights realized. All survivors should have full, legally protected access to the services and programs they need. Survivor voices must be a part of any discussion that will affect them, such as development or disability plans.

Universalization is also an unfinished job. We warmly welcome the statement by the United States this morning that it intends to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty in the future, and is as of now prohibiting any future production of antipersonnel mines. This again reinforces that the treaty is the only solution to the landmine problem, and that antipersonnel mines are no longer legitimate weapons. We urge the US to go further and set a target date to accede, to commit to no use until it has acceded, and to begin stockpile destruction now.

Mr. President, while remaining challenges are great, they are by no means insurmountable, or even overwhelming. The ICBL has issued a Completion Challenge to States Parties, asking them to commit to complete all major treaty obligations within the next decade. There is no doubt on our part, based on expert analysis by our field-based operators, that this can be accomplished. Indeed, these obligations can and should be met by most States Parties that have not already done so within five years or less. We have been pleased this week with how States Parties have embraced the notion of completion and the deadline of 2025.

Meeting the challenge will take renewed determination, sufficient resources, and the use of good practices. It will take what might be called the Spirit of Maputo in 1999. Let's let the rest of the world know that a mine-free world is not a pipedream. It is not a centuries or even decades-long endeavor anymore. Let's imagine no more use of antipersonnel mines; no more contaminated land; no new mine casualties; and a world where survivors are assured of the services they need. Let's rise to the challenge and make it happen within a decade. Thank you.

Historic Mine Ban Treaty Meeting in Maputo Expected to Highlight Achievements and New Commitments to End Suffering from Landmines by 2025

(23 June 2014, Maputo) At the outset of an historic meeting of the treaty banning antipersonnel mines, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines is challenging governments to take actions that will ensure that within ten years, no armed forces anywhere are still using antipersonnel mines, and there are no new casualties caused by the weapons. All States Parties to the treaty should finish clearing minefields within a decade.

Fifteen years after the first Mine Ban Treaty meeting was held in Mozambique – a country then heavily affected by landmines, but now nearly mine-free – the International Campaign to Ban Landmines joins over 1,000 delegates including representatives from [States Parties](#), the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other international organizations in Maputo, Mozambique for the treaty's Third Review Conference this week. The President of Mozambique, His Excellency Armando Guebuza, will address the meeting during the

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opening ceremony and will be joined by ICBL Ambassador and Nobel Peace Laureate, Jody Williams.

The meeting, which will take place from 23-27 June, will assess progress made to date in banning antipersonnel mines, clearing minefields, and helping victims, and will provide a roadmap for the work ahead. Mozambique, which takes up the treaty presidency this week, has set the stage for the meeting by committing to clear its remaining mined areas by the end of the year.

“Mozambique’s success story is the success story of the Mine Ban Treaty and for communities threatened by landmines around the world. Since the mine ban community ushered in the treaty in 1999 huge advances have been made toward putting an end to the suffering caused by antipersonnel mines; now it’s time to finish the job and to do it within ten years,” said ICBL Campaign Manager and landmine survivor, Firoz Alizada.

The Mine Ban Treaty has made huge strides with 161 countries on board today, a steady reduction in the number of landmine casualties each year, and an increasingly globally accepted norm against the use of antipersonnel mines.

The anticipated announcement this week by Oman on joining the Mine Ban Treaty and the near universal respect for the norm against use in recent years demonstrate the continued strength of the treaty today.

Twenty-seven states contaminated with landmines have declared themselves mine-free since the Mine Ban Treaty entered into force, and this number continues to grow each year. During the past five years nearly 1,000 square kilometers of contaminated area has been cleared.

Over 47 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines have been destroyed by States Parties, with 87 states now done with this treaty obligation. One blight on the treaty’s record has been the fact that States Parties Belarus, Greece, and Ukraine missed their 4-year stockpile destruction deadline, though ICBL welcomes the recent news that Greece and Belarus are now making good progress toward finishing their destruction obligations.

The conflict situation in Ukraine highlights the need for states to make sure all mines are destroyed within their deadlines and ensure the weapons are never used. The recent flooding in the Balkans has also emphasized the indiscriminate threat landmines pose to communities and the need to clear contaminated land as quickly as possible.

Yemen recently became the first State Party to acknowledge that government forces had used antipersonnel mines—apparently in 2011 and 2012—the most serious violation of the treaty to date. The ICBL and States Parties have emphasized the importance of Yemen identifying those responsible and holding them accountable, as well as clearing the mines and assisting the civilian victims.

In preparation for this historic meeting, ICBL has issued a “completion challenge” to States Parties, calling on them to [present clear commitments](#) to complete their remaining treaty obligations, including clearance, victim assistance, and stockpile destruction, within ten years of the Review Conference. The ICBL also hopes to see no more new casualties and no use of antipersonnel mines anywhere within a decade.

There were fewer than 4,000 new recorded casualties from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in 2012 according to the Landmine Monitor, ICBL’s research arm. Yet this amounts to 10 individuals who are still being killed or maimed every

day by landmines and ERW. “We can and should bring this number to zero new casualties within ten years of the Maputo meeting,” said Firoz Alizada. “Ongoing assistance for landmine victims is a lifetime commitment. Governments need to prioritize adequate availability and accessibility of services in areas where victims live,” he added.

ICBL’s completion challenge calls on all States Parties to complete clearance of all known mine contamination within the next decade. “The remaining antipersonnel mine threat can be removed in every State Party in less than ten years if operators, donors, and national authorities employ the right resources in the right way,” said Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL-CMC Policy Director. “Most importantly, states need to direct resources to areas with actual mine contamination rather than the large suspected areas identified through outdated surveys,” Gabelnick added.

The path to a mine-free world will be paved by universal respect for the mine ban norm, and universal adherence to the treaty. In fact, more than three-quarters of the countries in the world are already on board the treaty, and of those remaining outside, many have expressed interest in joining. Maputo is an opportunity for those countries, including the United States, to commit to join the treaty or announce steps toward joining.

The US which has been reviewing its mine ban policy for nearly five years, has called for the eventual elimination of antipersonnel landmines and has not used the weapon in more than two decades. It is past time for the US to join the Mine Ban Treaty.

Over 150 ICBL delegates from around the world including landmine survivors, mine action and victim assistance operators and researchers are participating in the meeting this week alongside Mine Ban Treaty States Parties and hundreds of other delegates.

For more information contact:

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Links:

ICBL Website - <http://www.icbl.org>

ICBL on Flickr - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/minefreeworld/collections>

ICBL Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/minefreeworld>

ICBL Twitter - <https://twitter.com/minefreeworld>

Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor:

For more facts on landmine and cluster munitions issues globally, and to view detailed country profiles, visit <http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php>

United States Changes Mine Ban Stance, Announces Steps Towards Mine Ban Treaty Accession

(27 June 2014, Maputo, Mozambique) – The United States announced today it intends to join the Mine Ban Treaty in the future and will not produce antipersonnel mines. Speaking at the Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, US Ambassador to Mozambique, Douglas Griffiths, said the US is pursuing solutions that would allow the country to accede to the treaty. The Ambassador also recommitted to cooperation with States Parties and NGOs in undertaking global mine action efforts.

“With this announcement, the US has changed its mine ban stance and has laid the foundation for accession to the treaty. The message to the international community is clear, the Mine Ban Treaty is the only solution to eliminate the suffering caused by landmines,” said International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) Head of Delegation, Steve Goose.

However the announcement today by the US does not go nearly far enough. No target date has been set for accession by the US, and no final decision has been made on whether to join the treaty. The US is reserving the right to use its 10 million antipersonnel mines anywhere in the world until the mines expire. The ICBL calls on the US to commit to no use until it accedes and to begin destruction of one of its landmine stockpiles.

The announcement follows strong declarations by States Parties this

week of renewed commitment to the treaty. Seventy-nine States Parties participated in the meeting and signed the Maputo Declaration with a target date of 2025 for completion of their treaty obligations including stockpile destruction, clearance of mined areas on their territory, and adequate assistance to landmine victims.

The ICBL has issued a Completion Challenge to States Parties, asking them to commit to complete all major treaty obligations within the next decade. “Inspired by Mozambique, states have recommitted this week to turning into reality the promise of the Mine Ban Treaty to eliminate the global threat of antipersonnel landmines. The Maputo Action Plan adopted today provides a roadmap for what needs to happen during the next five years to achieve a world without landmines,” said ICBL-CMC Executive Director, Sylvie Brigot-Vilain.

The Maputo Declaration, including the target completion date of 2025, was agreed by Mine Ban Treaty countries following a week of clearly articulated commitments to achieve a mine-free world within the next decade. A 31-point work plan approved by states recognizes that there is much more to do and strongly asserts that completion in a decade can be done through states working harder and better.

The participation of 12 states not parties to the treaty, including China, India and the United States, at the Third Review Conference demonstrated the strength of the global norm banning landmines.

Oman has recently announced plans to join as early as next month.

Unofficially, China has indicated that it has been steadily destroying what has been considered the largest stockpile of the weapon globally. Landmine Monitor previously estimated the number of China’s stockpiles at some 110 million mines (based on Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons reporting from the 1980s). Exact stockpile figures were not provided by Chinese Delegates, however the number was said to be less than five million. If confirmed, this would represent a massive reduction in the number of estimated landmine stockpiles globally.

Greece committed to completing destruction of all stockpiles of the weapon by 2015 – a very positive development. Along with Ukraine and Belarus, Greece has been in non-compliance of the treaty for some years for failing to meet its stockpile destruction deadline. Both Greece and Belarus announced destruction was now underway and would soon be destroying thousands of mines per day.

“The ICBL believes that the end to contamination in States Parties is in sight. Most should be able to complete clearance of antipersonnel mines in their territory in five years, and all within 10 years. To make this happen, states will need to focus on clearing truly contaminated areas so they can finish the job,” said Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL Policy Director.

Four countries (the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Yemen and Zimbabwe) were granted extended deadlines for mine clearance. A fifth, Ethiopia, announced earlier this year it could not meet its June 2015 deadline, but did not request an extended deadline as would have been required. Ethiopia will therefore be in violation of the treaty if it does not complete clearance by June 2015.

Allegations of mine use are a serious concern that demand immediate attention in order to safeguard the hard won victories of the Mine Ban Treaty. State Party Yemen addressed recent instances of mine use, stating that the Military Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation to identify those responsible, also noting that clearance and mine risk education efforts have begun and assuring that this egregious violation of the treaty is being taken seriously.

States Parties Sudan and Turkey responded to ongoing use allegations during the meeting; Sudan announced creation of an investigative committee while Turkey provided details of investigations of previous allegations of mine use, including a 2009 incident, which cost the lives of 7 soldiers.

The priority now given to and the advances in victim assistance under the Mine Ban Treaty are a clear result of States Parties' commitment. In 1999, some 26,000 people were killed or injured by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) each year.

Today, there are fewer than 4,000 recorded casualties.

In spite of this, many survivors are still waiting to benefit from the services they are entitled to as a matter of human rights. Survivors' statements by ICBL members on the closing day of the meeting clearly demonstrated the work to be done.

"While Mozambique is completing its mine clearance obligations this year, the pernicious effects of mines have longstanding repercussions in the lives of victims," said ICBL member and Mozambican landmine survivor Luis Wamusse. "Countries must adopt national action plans for victim assistance which ensure survivors a life of dignity where their rights are respected and they have opportunities to enjoy full participation in society." The ICBL calls on States Parties to immediately implement the Maputo Action Plan especially regarding access to services for all landmine survivors.

According to the research of the Landmine Monitor, meeting the challenge of a mine-free world is not only possible, it is entirely within reach through renewed determination, sufficient resources, and the use of good practices. The dream of no more contaminated land, no new mine casualties, and a world where survivors are assured of the services they need, is steadily becoming a reality; the ICBL urges states to rise to the challenge and make it happen within a decade.

For more information contact:
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Links:
Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor: For more facts on landmine and cluster munitions issues globally, and to view detailed country profiles, visit <http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php>
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