



Push for Progress by Phnom Penh

*Memo for States in the Lead Up To the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 28 November – 2 December 2011*

Background

The Eleventh Meeting of States Parties (11MSP) to the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) will take place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 28 November to 2 December 2011¹. This will mark two years since the Second Review Conference of the MBT and adoption of the “*Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014: Ending the Suffering Caused by Anti-Personnel Mines*” (CAP).

By adopting the CAP, states have committed to undertake 67 concrete actions in: universalizing the convention, destroying stockpiled mines, clearing mined areas, assisting the victims, providing cooperation and assistance, and other actions, in the period 2010-2014 to enhance implementation and universalization of the MBT.

Recently, the MBT has been faced with major challenges on stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance, and continuing standstill on universalization. The CAP was designed to guide states’ efforts to address these challenges in a timely and effective manner.

The 11MSP will be a good opportunity to take stock of the progress made so far in implementing the CAP and the MBT. In Phnom Penh, states will be expected to report on what they have done so far “*to translate this action plan into sustainable progress*”² and on how they plan to fully implement the CAP by the end of 2014, when the Third Review Conference of the MBT will take place.

The ICBL is calling on all governments to turn the Cartagena Action Plan into real action to achieve concrete progress by the 11MSP, in four key areas: 1) mine clearance; 2) victim assistance; 3) resources, cooperation and assistance; and, 4) ban and disarmament (including: stockpile destruction; mines retained for training; transparency reports; compliance; national legislation; universalization).

To achieve progress in these areas, the ICBL is asking the governments to take the following steps:

STEP 1 [by mid-May]

Review the progress made so far in implementing the CAP

¹ The MBT was signed in 1997 and entered into force in 1999. As of today, there are 156 State Parties to the MBT. Cambodia has been heavily affected by landmines and in the mid-90s became a cradle of the mine ban movement by hosting a pivotal conference on landmines in 1995.

² Introduction, Cartagena Action Plan: 2010-2014: Ending the Suffering Caused by Anti-Personnel Mines, page 1.

States should review the commitments they made under CAP and assess the progress made so far in implementing the CAP: what has been achieved and what the remaining needs, challenges and gaps are.

STEP 2 [by 20 June 2011, Intersessional Standing Committees]

Identify a few CAP actions, relevant and realistic for their country that they can implement or make significant progress on by the 11 MSP in Phnom Penh.

States should pick the CAP actions that are most relevant and urgent for their country, as well as realistically achievable by the 11MSP. States should identify these actions and specific progress they plan to achieve as soon as possible and at the latest by 20 June (the beginning of the Intersessional Standing Committee meetings to the MBT), where the plans should be shared publicly.

For example:

a) an affected country whose extent of contamination is still unknown should identify and report on all suspected areas as soon as possible and incorporate this information into their national action plans (CAP action#14);

b) a country that has missed its deadline for stockpile destruction should do everything possible to destroy its stocks in the shortest timeframe possible (CAP action #7); or

c) a country that still has victim assistance, clearance or stockpile destruction obligations under the treaty should develop or update national plans, map available national resources and clearly present needs for international cooperation and assistance (CAP action#34).

STEP 3 [throughout the year, up to 11MSP, 28 November 2011]

Work diligently throughout the year to implement or make significant progress on the identified CAP actions by the 11MSP

States should prioritize implementation of the identified CAP actions through careful planning, consistent hard work, and committing sufficient resources to meet their goals by the 11MSP. States should work closely with civil society, including landmine survivors, and other stakeholders to make sure their efforts are transparent and in harmony with all actors' activities.

STEP 4 [11MSP, 28 November - 2December 2011]

Report on achievements and future plans to implement the CAP at the 11MSP in Phnom Penh

States should come to Phnom Penh with clear and detailed information on their recent achievements in implementing the CAP actions and their future plans to implement other CAP actions by the Third Review Conference of the treaty in 2014.

Useful resources:

- *Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014: Ending the Suffering Caused by Anti-Personnel Mines:* available in En, Fr, Sp, Ar, Rus, and Chinese at: <http://www.cartagenasummit.org/>
- Implementation Support Unit of the Mine Ban Treaty website: <http://www.apminebanconvention.org>
- International Campaign to Ban Landmines website: <http://www.icbl.org>
- ICBL critiques on states' requests for extension of land clearance deadlines - available at: <http://www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/Work/MBT/Mine-Clearance/Extension-Requests>
- Survivors' Call to Action: <http://www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/Treaty/MBT/Annual-Meetings/Cartagena-Summit/survivors-call>
- Landmine Monitor country reports and fact sheets available at: <http://www.the-monitor.org/>