



## Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

***Protocol II to The 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)***, regulated the use and transfer of all landmines and represented a minimum international norm for belligerents to abide by. It was amended in 1996, to address internal as well as international armed conflicts. Protocol II stipulates that all anti-personnel mines must be detectable and prohibits the use of remotely-delivered anti-personnel mines without effective self-destructing and self-deactivating mechanisms. It further prohibits the transfer of AP mines to any non-state entities. At the end of armed conflicts, States that are party to Protocol II are obliged to remove or assist in the removal of all mines laid by them. On 3 December 1998, Protocol II entered into force as binding international law. It will take effect six months after 20 States have consented to be bound by its articles. Thus far, sixteen states have accepted the conditions of Protocol II.

### Advocacy

The international community's position concerning the excessive number of landmines deployed, transferred, stockpiled and in production has been clearly expressed in a number of GA resolutions. The ratification and subsequent entry into force of the Ottawa Treaty confirms that the virulent problem of landmines is not merely an isolated issue, but an unequivocal international humanitarian concern. Advocating that the States Parties comply with the conditions of the Treaty along with the ultimate eradication of anti-personnel mines and continued partnerships with the NGO community, particularly the ICBL and the ICRC, is the fourth element of UN mine action.

## **The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction**

At precisely 1 pm on March 1st, 1999, a small group of dignitaries, UN staff and concerned individuals gathered outside the General Assembly building to watch as Secretary-General Kofi Annan gently released the wooden baton that rang the UN Peace Bell. This gesture is generally reserved for solemn occasions, like the anniversary of atomic bombings of Hiroshima, or to denote a significant humanitarian achievement. On this damp, late winter day the occasion being marked was the entry into force of ***The Convention on The Prohibition of The Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction*** — The Ottawa Treaty.

Nine months after the Treaty was opened for signature, Burkina Faso became the 40th nation to ratify and thus ensure its entry into force. The swift adoption of the Treaty serves as testimony to the international community's recognition of the gravity the landmine problem and the desire on the part of concerned nations to do all that is necessary to resolve it.

The Ottawa Treaty — was formally adopted on 18 September 1997. In December 1997, the Treaty was opened for signature and is now deposited with The United Nations in New York. Article 15 of the Treaty stipulates that a state becomes party to the Treaty six months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification with the United Nations.

States adhering to the conditions of the treaty agree never to use, develop, produce stockpile or transfer anti-personnel mines, or to assist anyone else in doing so, under any circumstances. Further, each State must agree to the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines within four years of the date of ratification by a particular State.

There is a general obligation on the part of States who are in a position to do so, to provide international support for mine clearance, mine awareness programmes and assistance to mine victims, including for their care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration. It was commonly accepted among most of the participants that the humanitarian nature of the AP mine issue was fundamental in getting governments to sign the Convention.

Six months after a country ratifies the Treaty it will enter into force. As of 1 April 1999, 59 countries are now legally bound by the Convention.

**Countries where the  
Treaty has entered into force**

**59**

**Countries that have ratified**

**72**

**Countries that have signed**

**135**

*1 April 1999*

A total of 72 countries have ratified and 135 have signed the Treaty. Those states who have signed have clearly acknowledged their intent to address the APM problem. Their anticipated ratification will transform that intention into an unqualified commitment.

### **The First Meeting of States Parties**

**In accordance with Article 11 of the Ottawa Convention, the First Meeting of States Parties (FSMP) to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and their Destruction in Maputo, Mozambique is the first crucial step in the process of Treaty implementation. The meeting of State Parties, ---countries for which the Ottawa Convention has entered into force--- is a formal means to examine the status and operation of the Convention and the practical challenges related to addressing the global landmine problem. The FSMP will adopt a Report to capture specific decisions, and may also adopt a declaration as a way of capturing and expressing the global commitment to solve the AP mine crisis.**



<sup>1</sup> Dotted line represents approximately the line of Control in Japan, and Kashmiri spread after India and Pakistan. The first onset of Jjmm and Kksmm has not yet been reported upon by the natives.

- Chambers and other seeds with increased lipid levels