

# Ending the use, production, export and stockpiling of AP mines

*The Ottawa Convention provides a framework for addressing the global landmine problem, both by insisting on an unambiguous ban on AP mines and by obligating states in a position to do so to assist in mine clearance, victim assistance and other elements of mine action. While the world celebrated the Convention's entry into force in March of 1999, the real work continues to ensure that the Convention will live up to its promise.*

In every aspect of the general status and operation of the Convention, it is possible to report progress. During the period when the Convention was open for signature, 133 states signed, thereby signalling their general support and intention to accept the Convention's provisions at a later date. By December 31, 2000, 109 states had formally agreed to the obligations of the Convention, by ratifying or acceding to it.

The global norm against anti-personnel mines has also influenced countries that have not yet signed the Convention. A number of non-signatory states have taken significant steps toward banning these weapons, by enacting moratoria on their

use, production and export and by pledging to accede to the Convention in the coming years.

According to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines' *Landmine Monitor Report*, the number of anti-personnel mine producers has dropped sharply in recent years, from 54 to 16. Today, of the 34 nations known to have exported anti-personnel mines in the past, all but one of those nations has made a formal statement that they have ceased to export. More than 22 million landmines have been destroyed in recent years by more than 50 nations. And, for the first time in several decades, mines are being removed from the ground faster than they are being planted.

## Universalization of the Ottawa Convention

