

Related to the challenge of developing an effective response to the global landmines crisis is the important task of developing ways to measure progress in these efforts. In short, if we don't know where we are going, we won't know how to get there.

Canadian officials have now developed a straightforward series of benchmarks which will be used to guide Canadian mine action programs and measure progress in wider global mine action efforts.

MEASURING PROGRESS IN MINE ACTION

To what extent...

- have states banned the production, stockpiling, trade and use of AP mines?
- does the necessary information exist to guide effective mine action?
- have individuals and communities in mine affected areas been reached by effective mine awareness programs?
- have mine casualties been reduced?
- has high priority mined land been cleared?
- have mine victims and mine-affected communities received assistance? •

Shoe piles such as this one in Paris are a rough measure of the landmines problem. But how do we measure solutions?

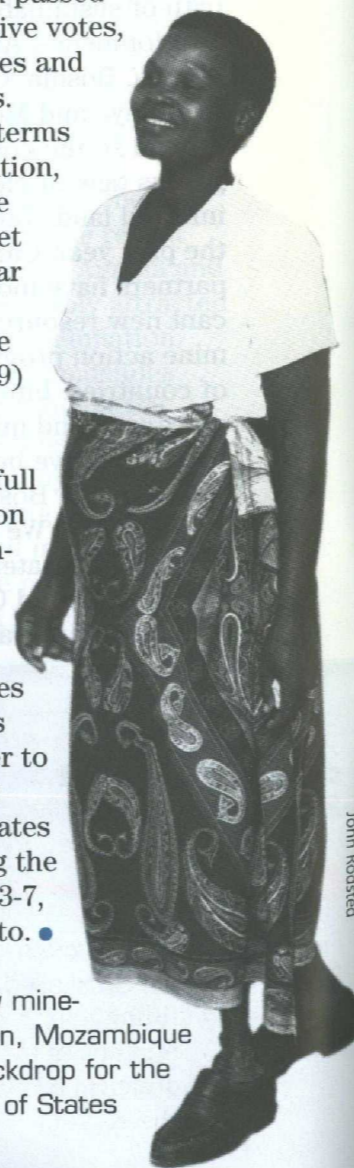
MAPUTO IN MAY: Landmines Resolution passes UN First Committee vote

The way forward for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has been cleared with the passage of the UN General Assembly First Committee Resolution L.33, "Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines". The resolution passed with 124 positive votes, 0 negative votes and 19 abstentions.

Under the terms of the Convention, signatories are obliged to meet within one year of the entry-into-force date (March 1, 1999) to review progress and facilitate the full implementation of the Convention's obligations.

The resolution endorses Mozambique's generous offer to host the First Meeting of States Parties during the week of May 3-7, 1999 in Maputo. •

As a seriously mine-affected region, Mozambique is a fitting backdrop for the First Meeting of States parties.



John Redsted

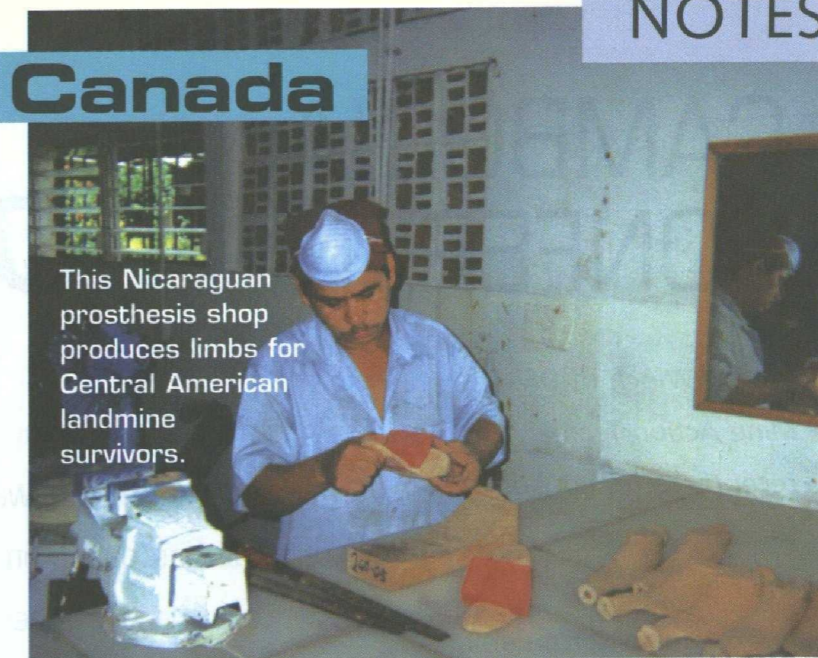
Mexico and Canada to co-host Landmines seminar

Mexico and Canada will co-host a Regional Seminar on Anti-Personnel Mines, January 11-12, 1999, in Mexico City.

"The theme of the seminar - "Reaffirming Our Commitment" - captures perfectly the spirit of the anti-personnel mine ban effort in this region," said Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Early on in the Ottawa Process, Central American and Caribbean leaders pledged to make their region mine-free by the year 2000. Meetings such as this will help to reinvigorate that commitment."

The goal of the seminar is to advance the mine-action agenda in the Western Hemisphere, with a focus on early ratification of the Ottawa Convention, humanitarian mine clearance and effective assistance to victims.

Approximately 200 representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations in the Americas are expected to attend. The organization of American States and the Pan American Health Organization will be key participants in the meeting, building on their important contribution to mine clearance and victim assistance programs in the regions. •



This Nicaraguan prosthesis shop produces limbs for Central American landmine survivors.

DFAIT/MAECD



Minister Awarded for Work on Landmines Ban

On October 23, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy was awarded the Council of Europe's North-South Prize in recognition of his role in securing a global ban on landmines. Also receiving the award this year was South African children's rights activist, Mrs. Graça Machel.

The Honourable Sheila Finestone, Parliamentary Advisor on Landmines, accompanied the Minister at the award ceremony in Lisbon. •