

assistance and to investigate alternatives to anti-personnel mine capabilities. The Centre also evaluates technologies developed through on-site research as well as those produced by Canadian industry. This is done using the facilities available through the Centre's association with Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES). Industry Canada has the lead in commercializing and marketing technologies which show the most promise. DND also contributes to mine action by providing technical advisors to mine action centres in affected regions.

Measured Steps: Progress in implementing the Convention

Steady progress is being made in entrenching the new international norm established by the Convention. In July 2000, a historic milestone was reached when the Islamic Republic of Mauritania became the 100th state to ratify the Convention. Support for the Convention continues to grow, as does the commitment to make positive change by states that have not yet accepted the terms of this important humanitarian instrument.

Impressive progress is being made in clearing mined land. In the most mine affected states in the world, more land is being returned to communities. While too many men, women and children still lose lives and limbs as a result of AP mines, casualty rates are declining rapidly – due in part to mine awareness education. Landmine survivors and their communities are receiving more and better services and support. More and better information is leading to effective priority setting and a clearer understanding of the scope of the problem. And increased efforts are being undertaken to ensure the sustainability of our mine action efforts.

This report has been structured to inform the Parliament of Canada and Canadian citizens about the progress being made in

these areas and to provide a review of how Canada's efforts have contributed to this progress. At the end of the second fiscal year of the five-year Canadian Landmine Fund, we have moved further toward our goal of ending the terror of landmines. Much work still remains, but we are on track to ensuring the Ottawa Convention lives up to its promise as a framework for addressing the global landmine problem.



Robert Semeniuk

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