
Discussion

The following points were raised in discussion:

- A majority of countries at Oslo rejected the inclusion of provisions for reservations, derogation and withdrawal. This is intended to be a total ban comparable to the treaty on chemical weapons, covering conditions of both peace and war.
- The Convention does not apply directly to non-state actors, but the ICBL is committed to working with guerilla groups to get them to abide by Treaty principles. For example, Operation Life Line Sudan negotiated with the Sudanese Liberation Army to adopt a code of conduct outlawing targeting of civilians. There may be cultural or national values, for instance to protect women and children, that can be used as an argument for a ban on landmines. The Treaty establishes an international norm that other countries of the world can call upon to put pressure on warring factions.
- It was suggested that countries which have already passed legislation on the landmines ban provide copies to others that are drafting it.
- Another international gathering in the near future was suggested to keep up momentum for ratification.
- One participant urged that NGOs continue to be present in the corridors and behind the doors where ratification is taking place.
- National Red Cross Societies can play a special role, working with government to promote implementation of the Convention.

