

humanitarian agencies. The purpose of the Ottawa Process is to work with as many countries as possible to develop a comprehensive treaty banning the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of anti-personnel mines by December 1997. 50 countries signed the Ottawa Declaration in October, calling for a global ban. Canada's objective is a treaty signed by a broadly-based group of countries which will establish a new international norm against these weapons. To this end, practical work has begun on the treaty in Vienna, February 12-14, in Bonn, April 24-25, and with a series of further meetings planned for Belgium, Norway and Canada.

In December 1996, 156 countries voted for a resolution in the General Assembly, calling for an international treaty to ban AP mines. There were no negative votes cast and 10 countries abstained.²⁵

While the UK, France and the USA indicated in January their preference for the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the primary negotiating forum for a total ban on AP mines, they have stated that the CD and the Ottawa Process are "mutually reinforcing tracks" leading to the same goal of a total ban. Canada, and other supporters of the Ottawa Process, continue to believe that it offers the best chance for a timely and successful negotiation of a total ban. To date, the CD, a consensus body, has not agreed to a mandate for such a negotiation.

Successful conclusion and effective implementation of a global treaty banning anti-personnel mines would in the long term obviously be profoundly important for peacebuilding efforts. Dealing with mines that are currently deployed throughout the world, with their terrible consequences for consolidating peace in specific countries, will remain an on-going problem for years to come.

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project

Between 1994 and 1996 UNIDIR conducted the first phase of a major project on Disarmament and Conflict Resolution which focussed on the management of arms in peace processes.²⁶ Field experiences were gathered from personnel involved in the demobilization and disarmament of warring factions; a review was undertaken of a number of peace operations where disarmament and

²⁵ Belarus, China, DPRK, Israel, Pakistan, ROK, Russia, Syria and Turkey abstained. The resolution was 51/41 S.

²⁶ Significant project funding was obtained for this phase from the Ford Foundation and a number of individual countries.