

### ***Toward a Mine-free Africa: Action Plan of the Organization of African Unity***

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*Executive Secretary of the Organization of  
African Unity*

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has an action plan to achieve a mine-free Africa, said Ambassador Bensid. The plan has two distinct stages.

The first stage is ratification of the Treaty in support of a resolution adopted by the OAU in 1995 for a complete ban on anti-personnel mines on the African continent. Action to achieve ratification of the Treaty should be directed at governments of all OAU member states — their national parliaments can introduce legislation to ratify the Treaty. NGOs have a critical role in lobbying governments, and the media in

sensitizing the public to the importance of the Treaty at this stage. The OAU's goal is ratification of the Treaty by 40 African countries by next June or September.

The second stage of the action plan is implementation of the Treaty itself. At the national level, this would include adopting legislation against the use, transfer and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines; assessment of demining operations; and mobilization of financial resources for both the demining operation and the victim assistance.

At the local level, initiatives could include the organization of regional seminars by the OAU and ICRC, with participation by government and NGOs, and the creation of a coordinating committee that would evaluate regional anti-personnel mine elimination programs and exchange experiences with other regional coordinating committees.

