

**b) Canadian initiatives: The Ottawa Process**

In January 1996, Ministers Ouellet and Collette announced a comprehensive Canadian moratorium on the production, export and operational use of APM. In October, 1996, the Ministers announce the joint policy decision to destroy two-thirds of the stockpile of APM, with the last third to be destroyed upon the conclusion of an international agreement banning APM.

Following the conclusion of the CCW Review Conference, Canada invited states and international and non-governmental organizations to an international meeting held in Ottawa in October 1996. This Conference brought together 50 participant and 24 observer states to discuss a strategy for achieving a global APM ban. At that conference, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy, invited all states to work with Canada in negotiating a treaty banning APM to be signed in Ottawa by December 1997 ("the Ottawa Process").

In January 1996, Canada began working in partnership with a global coalition of like-minded states, international organizations, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations led by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Austrian government prepared and circulated a draft treaty text, which was the basis of extensive bilateral and multilateral consultations throughout 1997, including at a meeting of 111 countries in Vienna, Austria in February 1997, and a meeting of 120 countries in Bonn, Germany in April 1997. At the Brussels Conference in June 1997, states agreed upon a political declaration which 'locked-in' the commitment of states to the final stages of Ottawa Process - the Oslo negotiations and the signature of the ban treaty in Ottawa in December. By the end of the conference 97 states had signed the Brussels Declaration.

The negotiations on the APM Convention were held in Oslo from September 1-18, 1997. The Conference, chaired by Ambassador Selebi of South Africa, adopted a convention which comprehensively bans the production, use, transfer and stockpiling of APM. The Convention includes provisions dealing with the destruction of stockpiles and existing mined areas, and also includes provisions for the facilitation of compliance with the Convention, and allows for the possibility of fact-finding missions to clarify instances of alleged non-compliance.

The Ottawa Conference will be held from December 2-5, 1997. In addition to the high-level signing ceremony, the Conference will focus on post-Ottawa action on universalization of the convention and future action on the related issues of mine clearance and victim assistance.