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Dear Colleagues:

It has been a privilege for Canada to host representatives from countries and organizations around the world as we opened for signature the convention to ban landmines which so many have worked for so long to achieve. It has also been an honour to have the world's experts on the landmine crisis here with us to discuss the challenges we will face in the future on this important issue. Together we have begun to map out a way for the international community to move forward together in a coherent and coordinated way to promote and ensure the speedy and effective entry-into-force and ongoing implementation of the new Convention.

The Mine Action Forum and discussions which we have held in the roundtables have enabled us to develop an initial road map — an Agenda for Mine Action — which we hope will assist our future work together. This document contains a listing of initiatives that states, NGOs, international agencies and organizations have indicated they will undertake in the immediate future in support of the treaty and its goals. This document will help track our progress and provide a calendar of events to facilitate coordination and sharing of information and expertise.

The Agenda for Mine Action will also contain a summary of the discussions and ideas developed in the roundtable sessions held over the past days. A final document — "Mine Action: Networks" — contains a list of contact points to facilitate closer cooperation and coordination among those active in the landmine issue.



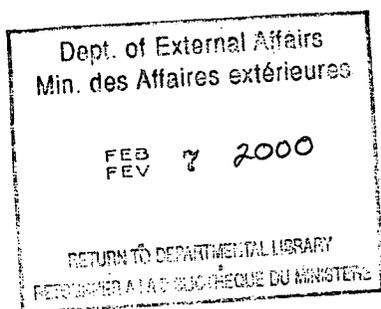
This document represents a snapshot of international thinking and planning in support of the ongoing landmine campaign at the moment of our concluding the Ottawa conference. However, we recognise that the process is a dynamic one and that this Agenda must be built upon and further enriched over the coming weeks and months.

Canada commits itself to playing an active role in support of this agenda. The remarkable cooperation and political, financial and human commitment that brought us to this point must be maintained.

As we leave Ottawa and this remarkable phase of the process, I would like to thank you for your support and participation in the Ottawa Conference. I would also like us to remind ourselves that this was just the beginning. It is an ongoing commitment to partnership and cooperation that will enable us to succeed in meeting our goal of a world finally freed from the fear and suffering of AP mines.

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd Axworthy  
Minister of Foreign Affairs



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