



# Reaffirming the commitment

Significant progress has been made over the past few years in fighting the terror of anti-personnel mines. While these insidious and indiscriminate weapons continue to be a source of human suffering in dozens of countries, the response of Canada and the global community is having a significant impact. The Ottawa Convention has been embraced by the vast majority of the world's states as a comprehensive framework for addressing the global landmine problem. Work to implement the Convention is proceeding apace.

However, to ensure that the Convention lives up to its promise, the commitment of states, non-governmental organizations and multilateral bodies must be sustained. Through the Canadian Landmine Fund, Canada continues to play a leadership role, making significant contributions to universalizing and implementing the Convention, ensuring compliance with it and consolidating its work.

## Anti-personnel mines

Anti-personnel (AP) mines are mines designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person, and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons. Cheap and easy to produce, AP mines are indiscriminate – they cannot tell the difference between soldiers and civilians. Most of the people injured or killed by

AP mines are civilians, many of whom live in countries ill-equipped to provide the care they need.

The impact of AP mines is severe. Many landmine victims die from their injuries; many never make it to a hospital. Those who survive often lose a limb or limbs, their sight or hearing.

Years after conflicts have ended,



photos by Chamrong Lo/CRC

Anti-personnel mines, like the PMD-6M wooden blast mine (left) and the POMZ-2 fragmentation stake mine (right), continue to injure and kill indiscriminately years after being laid.