

States that agree to be bound by the Convention commit themselves to:

- immediately end the use, production and transfer of AP mines;
- destroy existing stockpiles of AP mines within four years;
- clear mined land within 10 years;
- provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation of mine victims;
- assist other states in meeting their obligations under the Convention; and
- cooperate to ensure full compliance with the Convention.

The Convention signing ceremony, held on December 3, 1997, was a proud moment for Canada. One hundred and twenty-two states gathered in Ottawa to sign the humanitarian instrument which Canada's efforts had helped to achieve. A few months earlier, the ICBL and its coordinator, Jody Williams, had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their work in support of a ban, focussing the world's attention on the landmine issue and the Convention. But Canada, the ICBL and the global community knew that even greater tasks lay ahead.

Canada's commitment

During the period when it was open for signature, 133 states signed the Convention, signalling their intention to adhere formally at a later date and, under international law, accepting that they must not do anything that undermines the Convention's purpose. On March 1, 1999, with unprecedented speed, the Convention had been ratified by enough states to allow for its entry into force, and support for the Convention continues to grow. As of November 1, 2001, 122 states had formally accepted its terms. To ensure the Convention's universal acceptance, work must continue, and Canada is at the forefront of these efforts.

Canada also leads in efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Convention. Domestically, Canada did not have to contend with clearing mined areas. However, Canada ensured the expedient and effective implementation of other elements of the Convention by destroying remaining



DEFAIT

stocks of AP mines and establishing implementing legislation even before the Convention had entered into force.

The tasks associated with clearing mined land and destroying stockpiled AP mines are much more challenging for states that have emerged from conflict or which possess stockpiled mines from the Cold War period. Impressive strides have been made in clearing mined land, assisting landmine survivors and destroying mine stockpiles, but more must be done to ensure that the world abides by its commitment to assist landmine survivors and to eradicate AP mines. Canada is providing vital leadership in promoting the reaffirmation of these commitments.

Canada also promotes a renewed commitment to compliance with the Convention and the new international norm suggested by it. In 2000, Canada facilitated a comprehensive discussion on the Ottawa Convention's compliance provisions. These discussions have been useful in reinforcing the Convention's spirit of cooperation and in ensuring that questions regarding compliance concerns are effectively

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien addresses the 1997 Ottawa Convention signing conference.