

News Release

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CANADA TO HOST ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES CONFERENCE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada will host an International Strategy Conference on anti-personnel (AP) mines in Ottawa, October 3-5.

"Last week at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, I hosted a meeting of countries that are interested in advancing the AP mines issue. I was struck by the tremendous momentum that is building against these terrible weapons," said Mr. Axworthy. "This conference is unique in that it will deal with all aspects of the issue – the ban, mine clearance and victim rehabilitation – in an integrated fashion. I am confident that our consultations will lay a solid foundation for the elimination of AP mines," he added.

Entitled "Towards a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel (AP) Mines," the Conference will bring together representatives of some 70 governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international agencies and the United Nations. The objective of the Conference is to raise the profile of the AP mines crisis and to direct international, regional and national action toward a global ban.

Individual governments will be represented by senior officials, and many of the delegations are expected to include representatives of NGOs active in the area of AP mines. Minister Axworthy, National Defence Minister David Collenette and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie Pierre S. Pettigrew will be participating on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The Government of Canada is holding the Conference in collaboration with Mines Action Canada, a coalition representing

