

ENTRY INTO FORCE

Participants in the Ottawa Conference stressed the need for governments to take the necessary national steps to ratify the Convention as soon as possible in order to bring this instrument into force and make effective its provisions. Canada, Ireland and Mauritius presented to the UN Secretary General their instruments of ratification, becoming the first three states to ratify the Convention. Importance was attached to ensuring that states have the technical capacity to comply.

- Austria** - *Ratify in 1998 Initiative*, using bilateral and multilateral contacts to encourage signatories to ratify the Convention in 1998.
- African Topics** - African Topics Magazine will produce a special issue on the Ottawa Conference (March 1998), and a journalists' handbook on the Ottawa Conference, the Convention and ratification process.
- ICBL** - Public campaign *Entry into Force During 1998*. Lobby the UN to proclaim the year 2000 as International Year of the Eradication of Landmines.
- ICRC** - Global promotion and distribution of ratification kits, including a summary of the Convention for parliamentarians and the public and guidelines for state adherence and implementation.
- Publication of a layman's guide to the Ottawa treaty.
- IPU** - Circulation of a survey to member states of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on what parliamentarians can do to ensure the implementation of the landmines ban.
- UNICEF** - Lobby non-signatories to sign the Convention; promote early ratification by signatories.

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

The Convention calls for the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned by signatories as soon as possible, but not later than four years after entry into force.

- Denmark** - Destruction of existing stocks to be completed by the year 2000.
- France** - Destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines to be completed before the year 2000.
- Hungary** - Under the "package of unilateral measures", all remaining stockpiles will be destroyed by December 31, 2000.