

- A participant questioned whether the US Senate deterred the US from signing of the Convention. Using the US Senate as a reason for the failure of the US to sign the Convention is not warranted, a panelist responded. The participant felt that the President is very persuasive; his political will, coupled with public pressure, would have been enough to sway the Senate into ratifying the Convention.
- A participant wondered to what extent the European Parliament had input into nation-state action in relation to the present Convention and what impact it could have on future action. A panelist responded that the European Parliament has played a role in bringing national governments on side, and it will continue to have a role to play. However, it is the 'power of the people' that has made the most difference. Even traditionally conservative civil society institutions have taken radical action around the landmines issue. Private companies have also taken initiative on their own accord, choosing not to export components to countries if they know that these components will be used for making landmines. Furthermore, international inter-parliamentary action to bring hesitant states on side is currently underway by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- A participant asked delegates from second and third world countries if they were interested in making comments about the impact of landmines on the lives of people in their countries. As people in the developed world, we can empathize but we are unable to speak from personal experience. A member of the panel responded that there is no question that landmines have had a detrimental impact on an entire generation of people in Africa. In addition, women are particularly affected, in that lost limbs make it even more difficult for them to fulfil their roles (e.g., mobility during pregnancy, gathering firewood or water, etc.). It is true that landmines are not gender selective; however, some thought must be given to the special needs of female victims. It is imperative that discussions include issues related to landmine producers as well as to the banning of mines.

The following questions and comments were also made by participants.

- In Canada, the Inter-Parliamentary Union Group intends to create a working group to follow up on the implementation of the Convention.
- Presently, there are no legislative inroads being made to make it illegal for a citizen of a Convention signing country to transfer landmines from one non-Convention signing country to another non-Convention signing country. Can we devise laws governing the transfer of landmines similar to those in the EU and Canada governing paedophilia?
- What international role can parliamentarians who are already motivated on the landmines issue have on their colleagues who are less motivated? Is it appropriate to host an international conference for parliamentarians around this issue?
- This Convention is often referred to as a victory of humanity over war. What role does the economy play? What criteria have parliamentarians established to prevent the export of components that may be used to build landmines in non-Convention signing countries?
- The debate is over now; on their own initiative, companies are halting production of parts used in the manufacture of landmines.