

Building International Norms

Until AP mines are banned entirely, it is essential that they be subject to as many restrictions as possible. Accordingly, Canada is working to strengthen international humanitarian law restricting the use of land mines and other conventional weapons. In particular, Canada was active in the May 1996 international negotiations in Geneva to revise the land mines protocol (Protocol II) of the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons*.

The revised Protocol will place important new restrictions on the use of land mines, especially AP mines. Specifically, it will:

- apply to internal conflicts;
- establish minimum technical standards to make AP mines detectable for mine clearance purposes;
- place restrictions and prohibitions on the transfer and export of mines; and,
- enhance the protection of peacekeepers, humanitarian workers and mine clearance personnel.

Progress toward meeting these new standards will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Working for a Global Ban

While the progress made in Geneva is encouraging, Canada believes that much more needs to be done. For this reason, the Canadian government is working with other like-minded states and with Canadian and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to promote the rapidly growing international campaign for a total global ban on AP mines. So far, about 40 states, including Germany, France, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, support the concept of a global ban.

Canada is offering international leadership to encourage collective action by the global community in promoting a global ban on AP mines:

- Canada is sponsoring, with the United States, a UN General Assembly resolution calling for the early negotiation of a global agreement to ban AP mines and encouraging more states to join Canada in implementing bans or moratoriums on the production, export and operational use of AP mines.
- Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart promoted a resolution calling for a hemisphere free of AP mines which was adopted at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in Panama in June 1996.
- Canada is encouraging other regional organizations to address the AP mines issue, including the ASEAN Regional Forum at its July 1996 meeting.
- Minister Axworthy will host an action-oriented international strategy session for states and NGOs in Ottawa from October 3 to 5, to develop a concrete plan for co-ordinated international action to ban AP mines.

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