



Heads of delegations to the First Meeting of States Parties.

Maputo conference builds momentum

Less than three months after the entry-into-force of the Ottawa Treaty, Maputo, Mozambique was the site of another milestone in the movement to ban anti-personnel mines: the First Meeting of States Parties. A total of 108 governments, including 12 non-signatories and 15 international and non-governmental organizations were represented in Maputo – an excellent location to launch the Ottawa Convention as Mozambique is both a mine-affected state and one of the first supporters of the landmine ban in

Africa.

True to the traditions of the Ottawa Process which launched the ban treaty, the Maputo Conference featured a blend of formal and informal action-oriented work drawing upon the expertise of a broad range of global mine action actors including the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) – represented by a total 140 members from more than 60 countries.

One of the key objectives of the Maputo Conference was to get the new convention up and running to ensure its rapid and full implementation as a framework for action to address the global landmine crisis. Governments approved a common format for the submission of their transparency measures (Article 7) reports to the UN and heard reports from each country on the status of their efforts to implement the Convention. The final declaration of the Maputo Conference pledged “unwavering commitment to the total eradication of anti-personnel mines.” Several governments condemned the new use of mines in Angola and Kosovo.

One of the other key results of the meeting was the launch of an intersessional work program by Standing Committees of Experts to identify and resolve practical challenges related to the implementation of the Ottawa Treaty. These standing committees will meet regularly and are to report back to the Second Meeting of States Parties scheduled for September 2000 in Geneva. The intersessional work will be led by 20 states representing developed, developing and mine-affected regions of the world.

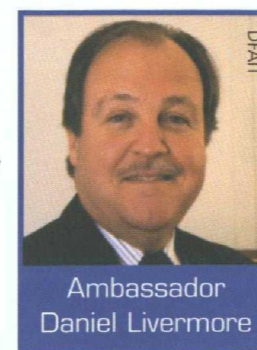
Intersessional work towards the Second Meeting of States Parties

Standing Committees of Experts

Expert Group	Co-Chairs	Rapporteurs
Mine Clearance	United Kingdom Mozambique	Peru Netherlands
Victim Assistance and Mine Awareness	Mexico Switzerland	Nicaragua Japan
Stockpile Destruction	Hungary Mali	Malaysia Slovak Republic
Technologies for Mine Action	France Cambodia	Yemen Germany
General Status and Operation of the Convention	Canada South Africa	Zimbabwe Belgium

Canada appoints new Ambassador for Mine Action

Canada has a new Ambassador for Mine Action. Daniel Livermore, formerly Canada's Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala and the Republic of El Salvador, was named to the post in August.



“The international community has made enormous progress in the past two years, but we have to maintain the momentum,” says Livermore, who holds a Ph.D. from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and has considerable experience working with the

United Nations in security and human rights issues.

“Achieving a landmine ban treaty has been a momentous landmark achievement. We need to apply the same vigour and dedication to the process of fully implementing all the provisions of the treaty and getting non-signatories to come on board.”

The Ambassador for Mine Action post was created by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy in May 1998 to ensure the Ottawa Convention is fully implemented and makes a real dif-

ference in the lives of mine-affected communities world wide.

Jill E. Sinclair, who served from May 1998 to August 1999 as Canada's first Ambassador for Mine Action, has been named Director General of the Global and Human Issues Bureau at Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

VIPs to toast new landmine charity

On December 3, 1999, the Canadian Landmine Foundation, a newly launched private sector charity, will celebrate the second anniversary of the Ottawa Convention signing ceremony with an inaugural dinner in Ottawa. The evening will be hosted by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and her husband, John Ralston Saul. Renowned guests will include Queen Noor of Jordan, pianist Oscar Peterson, philanthropist George Soros, US Senator Patrick Leahy, ICBL Ambassador Jody Williams and Maurice Strong, currently President of the United Nations University for Peace.

In addition to marking an important milestone in the struggle to ban landmines, the December 3 dinner will also recognize the Foundation's founding patrons who are contributing to the 1999 fundraising target.

Funds raised by the Canadian Landmine Foundation will provide a sustaining fund for mine action, initially supporting demining operations, with some emphasis on victim assistance.

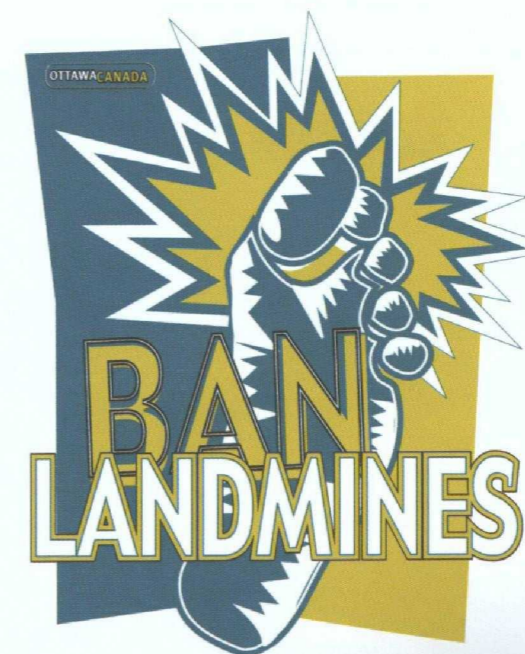


Ban Landmines 99 – Mine action on display

To demonstrate Canada's continued commitment to the fight against landmines, Mines Action Canada, the Canadian Red Cross and DFAIT's Mine Action Team will be co-hosting *Ban Landmines 99*, a mine action exhibition to be held at Lansdowne Park's Aberdeen Pavillion in Ottawa, December 2-3.

The exhibition will be open to the public and will feature a range of Canadian and international organizations in the global struggle against landmines. Prominent supporters of the ban movement, such as Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Nobel Laureate Jody Williams of the ICBL, will participate.

Events and activities will include a simulated mined village, a cyber-café and mine action 'film



festival', a 'speakers' corner' featuring presentations and panel discussions by mine action experts and mine ban advocates. As well, mine clearance teams, including Norwegian People's Aid, will be on-hand to demonstrate and talk about their life-and-death work.