

A PROGRAM FOR MINE ACTION

At the Ottawa Conference, States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction were joined by others in considering the elements of a global action plan to ensure progress on the issue of anti-personnel mines during the period leading up to entry into force of the Convention. In plenary sessions for the Ministerial Conference and Mine Action Forum, the following initiatives were circulated or announced.

GENERAL MINE ACTION INITIATIVES

In signing the Convention, States Parties expressed their determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

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| Canada | - Establishment of a \$100 million fund. This fund will support early ratification and entry into force of the Convention and universal acceptance and compliance with its provisions, and support mine-affected countries in the areas of capacity building for indigenous mine action programs, mine awareness education, and assistance to victims. |
| Central America | - <i>Central America 2000</i> initiative to declare the region mine-free by the year 2000. |
| EU | - Revised <i>Joint Action</i> on AP mines to provide a further EU contribution to demining and victim assistance as well as a moratorium on the transfer and production of anti-personnel mines. |
| OSCE | - The Forum for Security Co-operation will circulate annually among participating States a questionnaire on anti-personnel landmines, with responses due by March 15, 1998 and subsequently by December 15 each year. |
| UNDPKO | - As focal point for mine action within the UN, and through the activities of the newly-created Mine Action Service, to set up new programs and support existing ones, manage information, promote new techniques and technologies, and play an advocacy role. These new functions are in addition to the demining responsibilities that have traditionally been part of peacekeeping missions. |
| ICRC | - Organize regional seminars and national roundtables of military and political leaders on the military utility/humanitarian costs of AP mines (Central/Eastern Europe and Asia). |