

Elements for a political declaration

President-Designate of the Third Review Conference

27 November 2013

1. Introduction

The sender: who is communicating the message: 161 States Parties!

Context: significance of Third Review Conference (3RC) taking place in Mozambique, once one of the worst affected, where States first met to start the work, and after 15 years of implementation, a state that has solved its mine problem, thanks to the Convention.

2. Background

The rationale of the Convention: why was it established?

1990's - A world faced with a global humanitarian crisis, claiming thousands of victims every month, blocking development, prolonging wars and hindering refugee return.

The Convention and the process was an innovative, rational and relevant response, combining humanitarianism and disarmament. Initiated by humanitarian organisations and affected communities, completed by states in unique partnership.

3. On track for a mine-free world

15 years of successful implementation – what has been achieved?

- Anti-Personnel Mines (APM) considered a weapon of the past, stigmatized and the few instances of their use are being met with international condemnation.
- The number of new victims declined significantly and now is less than 5 000 annual, from all kinds of ERW.
- Survivors have been recognised and their rights reaffirmed
- Large areas of formerly contaminated land have been cleared, and released for safe use.
- XX million stockpiled mines have been destroyed safely
- International humanitarian law, protecting civilians in conflict, has been significantly strengthened

4. What remains to be done?

- Progress in clearance is too slow in many places. The most effective and efficient methods and tools for identifying remaining mined areas are not being used as widely as they should. Lack of tangible progress impedes resource mobilisation.

- States need to do more to make relevant programs and services available and sustainable and ensure that all landmine victims have access to programs that meet their specific needs. They also need to ensure the fulfilment of the rights of all victims.
- Stockpiles still await destruction in several States Parties, three of which missed their Convention deadline.
- Ongoing use of anti-personnel mines by actors in and outside States Parties is a matter of deep concern to all States Parties.

5. Commit to complete

A commitment by States Parties to fulfil, in partnership with international organisations and civil society, their major remaining convention obligations, within a finite and ambitious time-frame.

A reaffirmation of a commitment to ensure that AP mines remain a stigmatized weapon and that no actor will ever use them again.

A commitment to take all necessary steps to ensure that all obligations are complied with in a timely manner, so that the remaining mined areas can be identified, cleared and released for safe use for all without unnecessary delays, all stockpiles are quickly destroyed, there will be no new victims, and the dignity, rights and well-being of landmine victims will be ensured in a sustainable manner.

A commitment of the international community to stay focused and work together to fulfil the obligations of the convention as soon as possible. A mine-free world can and should be achieved within years, not decades.