

**ZIMBABWES POSITION ON MINES RETAINED FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF AND TRAINING IN MINE DETECTION,
CLEARANCE AND DESTRUCTION**

MINES RETAINED FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNIQUES FOR MINE CLEARANCE ARE ALLOWED UNDER ARTICLE 3. HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO STATE THAT THE AMOUNT OF SUCH MINES SHALL NOT EXCEED THE MINIMUM NUMBER ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR THE MENTIONED PURPOSES.

ZIMBABWE FEELS THAT THIS DEFINITION IS TOO WIDE AND LEAVES TOO MUCH ROOM TO STATES PARTIES TO DECIDE WHAT QUANTITIES OF MINES CAN RETAIN. THOUGH WE AGREE THAT THERE IS NEED TO RETAIN SOME MINES FOR THE STATED PURPOSES, THE NUMBERS SHOULD BE REASONABLE, AND SHOULD NOT RUN INTO SEVERAL TENS OF THOUSANDS.

WE PROPOSE THAT THIS COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE 3MSP A CEILING OR MAXIMUM NUMBER THAT A STATE PARTY MIGHT RETAIN. WE SUGGEST THAT 5000 MINES CAN BE A STARTING OR DISCUSSION FIGURE, WE FOR EXAMPLE RETAINED ONLY 700 MINES. WE ALSO SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE STATE PARTIES TO VOLUNTARILY REVIEW DOWNWARDS THE FIGURES THEY HAVE RETAINED FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF CLEARANCE TECHNOLOGY.