

Statement on universalization of the Ottawa Convention and follow up to the  
Bamako Seminar

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) participated in a meeting on the Universalization and Implementation of the Ottawa Convention, held in Bamako on 15-16 February 2001. The ICRC has undertaken follow up action to assist in the implementation of the operational conclusions adopted during that meeting as part of its on-going dialogue with governments.

As promoter and guardian of international humanitarian law, the ICRC will continue to promote ratification and implementation of international humanitarian law treaties, including the Ottawa Convention. In this connection, the operational conclusions adopted in Bamako have been a useful platform for our work in this area.

Among the activities planned following the Bamako meeting, the ICRC together with ECOWAS will organize a regional meeting in October 2001 in Abuja, Nigeria. The purpose of this regional meeting will be twofold: first, to encourage ECOWAS member States to become party to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and examine the issues likely to be discussed at the upcoming CCW Review Conference and second, to encourage full implementation of the Ottawa Convention at the national level. It is our hope that by October 2001, all ECOWAS member States will have become party to the Ottawa Convention.

The ICRC is available to assist all African countries in meeting the challenges set out in Bamako.

Thank you.