

Overview of the general status of implementation

Presentation to the Standing
Committee on the General Status and
Operation of the Convention

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Objectives of the overview:

- To ensure an understanding of progress made and challenges that lie ahead.
- To set the scene for more intensive dialogue on the achievement of the Convention's humanitarian aims.

Convention's humanitarian aims

- “Believing it necessary to do (our) utmost...to face the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines.”
- “Believing it necessary to do (our) utmost...to assure their destruction.”
- “Wishing to do (our) utmost in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation...of mine victims.”
- “Emphasizing the desirability of attracting adherence of all States to this Convention.”

Destroying stockpiled mines

- 72 States Parties completed destruction, never had AP mines, or presumed not to have stockpiles
- 31 States Parties in the process of destroying mines or are presumed to have extremely small stocks
- Over 20 million AP mines destroyed by the States Parties as of mid-2001

Destroying stockpiles: Challenges

- Full implementation is required for 45 States Parties on March 1, 2003
- By the end of 2003, full implementation will be required by 83 States Parties.
- Of these, 26 are in the process of destruction, have not begun destruction or have not provided information on whether stocks are held.
- There is a need to be active in identifying assistance needs.

Clearing mined land

- 25 States Parties have reported mined areas; A further 20 many have mined areas.
- Landmine impact surveys complete in 4 States Parties and underway or set to begin in a further 3.
- Mine clearance operations in 35 States Parties; IMSMA deployed to 16.
- Significant areas have been cleared or declared safe since entry-into-force.

Clearing mined land: Challenges

- Implementation required by approximately 25 States Parties by the end of 2009.
- Need to act promptly to understand extent of the problem, to establish programs and plans, to measure progress, to provide assistance.

Assisting victims

- A general consensus exists regarding what we mean by “victim assistance.”
- It has been accepted that there should be no discrimination in the provision of assistance.
- The importance of involving landmine survivors in matters that affect them has been accepted.
- Important steps have been taken to assist in overcoming the challenges faced by landmine survivors.

Assisting victims: Challenges

- Approximately 43 States Parties may require assistance in meeting survivors' needs.
- Countries with the greatest numbers of landmine victims are often some of the world's poorest.
- The need to assist survivor lasts longer than 4 or 10 years time-lines for destroying stocks or clearing mines.

Cooperation and assistance

- “Each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance”... “Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance”
- Over the past four years, mine action contributions annually have exceeded US\$ 100 million -- and sometimes have exceeded US\$ 200.
- Sources other than governments have emerged as important supporters of mine action.

Cooperation and assistance: Challenges

- The landmine issue doesn't go away simply because it does not get as much public attention as in the past.
- Mine affected States Parties need to ensure mine action continues to be an important domestic priority.
- Donor States Parties need to sustain support for programs until their completion.
- Need to ensure ongoing political will and resource mobilization in order to finish the remaining work.

Conclusion

- Review Conference in 2004: Progress in implementation will be required in some areas, expected in others.
- Need to remain as committed over the next two years as we have in the past.
- Need to work now to ensure that by 2004 a significant renewal in our commitment is made to finish the job.