

PART II

DECLARATION OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

1. We, the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, along with other States, international organizations and institutions and non-governmental organizations, are gathered in Geneva, Switzerland to reaffirm our unwavering commitment both to the total eradication of anti-personnel mines and to addressing the insidious and inhumane effects of these weapons.
2. We celebrate the ongoing growth in support for the Convention and our satisfaction with the general status and operation of it: over 100 States have formally accepted the obligations of the Convention; over 20 States Parties have completed destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and a further 23 States Parties are in the process of destroying stockpiles; the new international norm established by the Convention is taking hold as demonstrated by the behaviour of many States not parties to the Convention; and approximately US\$250 million has been allocated by donors over the past year to address the global landmine problem.
3. We recognize that much work remains. However, we are pleased that our efforts are making a difference: considerable areas of mined land have been cleared over the past year; casualty rates have been reduced in several of the world's most mine-affected States; and more and better efforts are being undertaken to assist landmine victims.
4. While we celebrate the success of the Convention, we remain deeply concerned that anti-personnel mines continue to kill, maim and threaten the lives of countless innocent people each day; that the terror of mines prevents individuals from reclaiming their lives; and that the lasting impact of these weapons denies communities the opportunity to rebuild long after conflicts have ended.
5. We deplore the continued use of anti-personnel mines. Such acts are contrary to the aims of the Convention and exacerbate the humanitarian problems already caused by the use of these weapons. We call upon all those who continue to use anti-personnel mines, as well as those who develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain and transfer these weapons, to cease now and to join us in the task of eradicating these weapons.
6. We implore those States that have declared their commitment to the object and purpose of the Convention and that continue to use anti-personnel mines to recognize that this is a clear violation of their solemn commitment. We call upon all States concerned to respect their commitments.

7. We celebrate this Second Meeting of the States Parties. But we recognize that achieving the promise of this unique and important humanitarian instrument rests in continuing to be tireless in our efforts to end the use of anti-personnel mines, to eradicate stockpiles, to cease development, production and transfers of these weapons, to clear mined areas in order to free land from its deadly bondage, to assist victims to reclaim their lives and to prevent new victims.

8. We also recognize that these are common tasks for humanity and therefore call upon all governments and people everywhere to join us in this effort. We call upon those in a position to do so to provide technical and financial assistance to meet the enormous challenges of mine action, and, whenever relevant, to integrate these efforts into development planning and programming. We call upon those States that have not formally accepted the obligations of the Convention to ratify or accede to it promptly. We call upon all States that are in the process of formally accepting the obligations of the Convention to apply provisionally the terms of the Convention. And we call upon one another as States Parties to effectively implement the Convention and to comply fully with its provisions.

9. We reiterate that, as a community dedicated to seeing an end to the use of anti-personnel mines, our assistance and cooperation will flow primarily to those who have foresworn the use of these weapons forever through adherence to and implementation of the Convention.

10. While we realize that our task is huge, we warmly welcome the substantial progress that has been made during the intersessional work programme and the accomplishments of this programme's Standing Committees of Experts.

11. We recall that the intersessional work programme was established at the First Meeting of the States Parties to focus and advance the international community's mine action efforts and to measure progress made in achieving its objectives. We express our satisfaction that the intersessional work programme has lived up to this promise, has assisted in developing a global picture of priorities consistent with the obligations and time-frames contained within the Convention, and has been undertaken in a manner consistent with the Convention's tradition of inclusivity, partnership, dialogue, openness and practical cooperation.

12. We acknowledge that the progress made during the intersessional work programme was significantly enhanced by the substantive participation of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and other relevant non-governmental organizations, and by regional and international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross. We express our gratitude to these organizations for their important contributions and we thank the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for its support of the first intersessional work programme and its commitment to continuing to support future intersessional work.

13. Building upon the accomplishments of the intersessional work programme, including increased participation in the work of the Convention by mine-affected States, we call upon all

interested parties to continue to participate in the work of the Standing Committees between now and the next Meeting of the States Parties, which will take place on 18 to 21 September 2001 in Managua, Nicaragua.

14. In reflecting upon our progress and accomplishments, and in considering the work that lies ahead, we reconfirm our conviction to make anti-personnel mines objects of the past, our obligation to assist those who have fallen victim to this terror, and our shared responsibility to the memories of those whose lives have been lost as a result of the use of these weapons, including those killed as a result of their dedication to helping others by clearing mined areas or providing humanitarian assistance.