



## THE UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION

Statement of the United Nations Mine Action Team  
to the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty  
(Geneva, 24-28 November 2008)

*Universalization (Actions #1-8 of the Nairobi Action Plan)*

The United Nations Secretary-General once again took the opportunity of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April 2008) to encourage all Member States to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty. More recently, here in Geneva, he called upon the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the CCW Convention to ratify the international treaties that form the legal framework for mine action currently in force, naming the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty together with Protocol V to the CCW and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Members of the UN Mine Action Team, both at headquarters and at field level, have taken every opportunity since the 8MSP to promote the universalisation of the Treaty. These include the activities organized by a number of national mine action programmes to celebrate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action or the photo exhibition at UN HQ in New York on the same event. In addition, UNDP and Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan participated at the Bali "Ottawa Convention Implementation and Universalization Workshop" organized by Indonesia in February this year. At country level, UN representatives have encouraged accession to the APMBT in bilateral discussions with a number of affected states including in particular, Lebanon, Libya, Nepal and Lao PDR.

*Stockpile destruction (Actions #9-16 of the Nairobi Action Plan)*

The United Nations provided stockpile destruction assistance to two of the States Parties with Article 4 deadlines occurring in 2008 (Burundi, Sudan). On 31 March, the Republic of Sudan completed the destruction of the known and declared stockpiles of antipersonnel mines in the country, thus meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 deadline. In Burundi, UNDP assisted in organizing the destruction of the entire stock of antipersonnel mines of the Burundian Army Forces, held on 17 March 2008. UNMAS continued to assist in the destruction of stockpiles in the territory of Western Sahara.