

Press Release



Progress in demining marked at global meeting in Cambodia: Burundi and Nigeria declare that they are mine-free

Phnom Penh, Cambodia 29 November 2011 – Burundi and Nigeria have become the latest countries to declare that they are free of anti-personnel mines. The announcements were made during the first two days of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or *Ottawa Convention*.

“I congratulate Burundi and Nigeria on declaring that they have cleared all known mined areas in accordance with their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention,” said H.E. PRAK Sokhonn, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister of Cambodia and President of the 11MSP.

“While sizeable work remains to clear all mines in Cambodia, we are encouraged by the efforts of Burundi and Nigeria,” said H.E. PRAK Sokhonn. “Their efforts have not been inconsequential. They have provided us hope that there is light at the end of tunnel.”

Burundi’s announcement of mine clearance completion was made by its Minister of Public Security. Burundi work assured that 246 suspected hazardous areas totalling 29 square kilometres are now clear of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war.

Nigeria’s efforts to comply with the Convention’s mine clearance obligations involved addressing 75,178 square kilometres suspected to contain anti-personnel mines or other explosive remnants of war. A total of 820 conventional landmines and 646 “ogbunigwe”, or craft-produced mines, were destroyed, along with numerous other explosive devices.

In presenting its declaration of completion to the 11MSP, Nigeria’s delegation stated that “Nigeria knows that its Article 5 challenge was not as severe as that faced by other affected countries. However, compliance still required a considerable effort.”

With the declarations made by Burundi and Nigeria, there are now 18 States Parties that have reported completion of their demining obligations, out of a total of 54 that have reported the responsibility to clear all mined areas under their jurisdiction or control.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention was adopted in Oslo in 1997, opened for signature in Ottawa the same year and entered into force in 1999.

To date 158 states have joined the Convention with 153 of these reporting that they no longer hold stocks of anti-personnel mines. Over 44.5 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed by the States Parties.

AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

34 of 50 States that at one time manufactured anti-personnel mines are now bound by the Convention's ban on production. Most other parties have put in place moratoria on production and / or transfers of mines.

Demining has resulted in millions of square metres of once dangerous land being released for normal human activity.

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For interviews or more information regarding any aspect of the Convention kindly email: ISU@APMineBanConvention.org or contact Laila Rodriguez at +855 97 6890 977 or +41 79 960 2274. Connect with the Convention through our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) or [Twitter](#).