



## Towards a Mine-Free World: the 2004 Nairobi Declaration

*Seven years ago today, representatives of states – joined by international organizations and civil society – gathered in Ottawa to sign the Convention banning anti-personnel mines. In its short history the Convention has become the framework to pursue a conclusive end to the suffering caused by those mines. Today, we, the high representatives of States Parties to the Convention again have gathered in the presence of the global public conscience here at the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World. We do so to mark our accomplishments, to take stock of our remaining challenges and to recommit ourselves to ending the scourge of anti-personnel mines.*

***We celebrate the tremendous advances made towards our common goal of forever ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines:***

*One-hundred-forty-four states have joined this endeavour and have established a powerful international norm that is recognized, in words and actions, well beyond the Convention's membership. Whereas anti-personnel mines were until recently in widespread use, their production has decreased dramatically, trade in this weapon has virtually ceased and their deployment is now rare. The number of new victims has fallen significantly and more of those who have survived are receiving assistance. Major strides have been made in clearing mined areas. And together we have destroyed more than 37 million stockpiled mines. These achievements have been fuelled by a unique spirit of cooperation between states, international organizations and civil society – a partnership that has become an example and inspiration for addressing other humanitarian, development and disarmament challenges.*

***While great progress has been made, we are prepared to address the remaining challenges:***

*We remain gravely troubled that anti-personnel mines continue to kill or maim, adding new victims to the hundreds of thousands of landmine survivors requiring life-long care. The presence of mines still blocks the return of displaced persons, hinders the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals that we have pledged to meet, and impedes states and peoples from building confidence between one another. Much more is required to ensure that mined areas are cleared by the Convention's deadlines, that mine victims receive the needed care, and that all other promises of this Convention are fulfilled. And we call upon those states that have not joined our efforts, and in particular those that possess vast stocks of anti-personnel mines or continue to use this insidious weapon, to adhere to the Convention without delay.*

***We renew our unwavering commitment to achieving the goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines, in which there will be zero new victims:***

*We will strengthen our efforts to clear mined areas and destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with our time-bound obligations. We will assist mine victims and we will vigorously promote the universal acceptance of the Convention. Together as representatives of both mine-affected states and those spared this scourge, we pledge to work in partnership, fulfilling our shared responsibility to provide the required human, technical and financial resources. We will condemn any use of anti-personnel mines by any actor. And we shall persevere until this unique Convention has been universally applied and its aims fully achieved.*

Adopted 3 December 2004