

COLOMBIA, VENUE OF THE SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE AP MINE BAN CONVENTION

From November 29th to December 4th, 2009, Colombia will host the *Second Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines*.



Cartagena will welcome Presidents, chancellors, military experts and civilians in the struggle against anti-personnel mines, non-government organizations and all actors interested in evaluating the actions, achievements, difficulties and challenges of each of the Convention's 156 State Parties.

A Shared Commitment
Cartagena / Colombia
29 November - 4 December / 2009

Colombia is proud to host this Second Review Conference, since it is considered as the acknowledgement of the actions performed in the country on this matter, and as a way for the international community's to show its support for the continued struggle against this burden.

During the Ninth Reunion of the State Parties of the Mine Ban Convention, held in Geneva in November 2008, Colombia was appointed as Host of the Review Conference after nearly one year of proceedings performed before the International Community by the Colombian Vice-President, Francisco Santos, and supported by the PAICMA, the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Why a Review Conference?

The AP Mine Ban Convention establishes an ample tool portfolio to guarantee its fulfilment, including: each State Party's obligation to submit a periodical report on the Convention's implementation process and regular meetings between the State Parties to review and consider any issue related to its implementation or start-up process.

Review Summits are the most important meetings held between world leaders to examine the problem of land mines in each country and therefore they provide a general view of the anti-personnel mine issue in the world.

This second review of the AP Mine Ban Convention's fulfilment aims to document what each State Party has achieved ten years after signing the Convention, in terms of fulfilment of the acquired commitments and the responsibilities that from now onwards will be undertaken to make sure they are met.

80% of the World Countries, which is equivalent to 156 Countries, has ratified the Convention.

Second Review Conference Agenda

During the Second Review Conference of the AP Mine Ban Convention, Switzerland yields the Designated Presidency of the Convention to Norway. This country's delegates will preside over all the technical and political discussions undertaken in this scenario, where each State Party will inform about the actions, achievements and challenges to fulfil the regulations established at the Convention.



Progress since the Nairobi Summit

The first Review Summit was summoned in Nairobi (Kenya) in 2004, exactly five years after the AP Mine Ban Convention entered into force on March 1st, 1999.

Since the Nairobi Summit “On a Mine-Free World,” the State Parties have achieved some considerable progress on the fulfilment of the Convention’s purpose.

A higher number of Countries signed the Convention, while other Countries and actors have adhered to its norms. Millions of stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed and wide areas with existence or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines have been cleared.

In the past four years the State Parties focused on promoting the welfare and guaranteeing the rights of anti-personnel mine survivors. Some have registered progress in the reinforcement of the norms established by the Convention.

Anti-personnel mine production is currently rare. 50 Countries used to produce them for year, 34 of which are now part of the Convention and are therefore ruled by the prohibition against anti-personnel mine production.

According to the International Campaign on the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) three Non-State Parties (Finland, Israel and Poland) have ceased production of anti-personnel mines and at least three other Non-State Parties (Egypt, United States of America and Vietnam) have not produced anti-personnel mines in years.

The signing Countries to the Convention on the Prohibition against Anti-Personnel Mines continue to promote the universal compliance with the Convention’s norms, condemning and performing the appropriate proceedings to put an end to the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines, according to the Nairobi Action Plan.

