



BELIZE

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES ACT

CHAPTER 21:01

REVISED EDITION 2011

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CHAPTER 21:01

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

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CHAPTER 21:01

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

24 of 2003.

[10th January, 2004]

PART I

Preliminary

1. This Act may be cited as the Anti-Personnel Mines Act.

Short title.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

Interpretation.

“anti-personnel mine” has the meaning assigned in Article 2 of the Ottawa Convention;

“a prohibited object” means an anti-personnel mine or any component of an anti-personnel mine;

“fact-finding mission” means a fact-finding mission under Article 8 of the Ottawa Convention;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of Defence is assigned;

“Ottawa Convention” means the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction which was signed by Belize in 1998, a copy of which is set out in the Schedule to this Act; or as amended from time to time.

“premises” includes land, immovable building, moveable structure, vehicle and aircraft;

“transfer” has the meaning assigned to it in Article 2 for the Ottawa Convention.

Purpose of the Act.

3. The purpose of this Act is to give effect to Ottawa Convention in Belize.

PART II

Anti-Personnel Mines, Prohibition, Destruction and Offences Etc.

Anti-personnel mine prohibition.

4.—(1) Subject to section 6, no person shall,

- (a) use an anti-personnel mine;
- (b) develop or produce an anti-personnel mine;
- (c) participate in the acquisition of a prohibited object;
- (d) have a prohibited object in his possession; or
- (e) participate in the transfer of a prohibited object.

(2) No person shall assist, encourage or induce any other person to engage in any conduct mentioned in subsection (1) of this section.

5. Section 4 applies to conduct in Belize.

6.—(1) In proceedings for an offence under section 4 of this Act, it is a defence for the accused to prove that his conduct was prevented from being a contravention of that section by the provisions of this section.

(2) It is not a contravention of section 4 of this Act, for a person to participate in the transfer of a prohibited object if,

- (a) he does so with the intention that it will be used only for purposes permitted by subsection (7) of this section ; and
- (b) the transfer in question is authorized by the Commandant, Belize Defence Force for the purposes of this subsection.

Application of section 4.

Permitted conduct.

(3) It is not a contravention of section 4 of this Act, for a person to,

- (a) participate in the transfer of a prohibited object for the purpose only of enabling it to be destroyed; or
- (b) have such an object in his possession for the purpose only (with or without such a transfer) of securing its destruction.

(4) It is not a contravention of section 4 of this Act, for a person to have a prohibited object in his possession if,

- (a) he has it in his possession with the intention that it will be used only for purposes permitted by subsection (7) of this section; and
- (b) it is an object which the Commandant, Belize Defence Force has authorized him for the purposes of this subsection to have in his possession.

(5) It is not a contravention of section 4 of this Act, for a person to participate in the acquisition of a prohibited object if,

- (a) the acquisition that has been made, agreed or arranged is an acquisition by means of a transfer which is permitted by virtue of subsection (2) or (3) of this section; and
- (b) he participates in that acquisition,
 - (i) with the intention that the object will be used only for the purposes permitted by subsection (7) of this section; or
 - (ii) for the purpose (with or without a further transfer) of enabling the object to be destroyed.

(6) It is not a contravention of section 4 of this Act, for a person at any time to assist, encourage or induce any on conduct if, at that time, he has reasonable cause to believe,

- (a) that the conduct in question is conduct which is or will be prevented by the provisions of this section from being a contravention of section 4 of this Act; or
- (b) that it would be so prevented if it were not otherwise prevented from being such a contravention.

(7) The purposes permitted by this subsection are,

- (a) the development of techniques of mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction;
- (b) training in techniques of mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction; and
- (c) the purposes of any proceedings under this Act or of any criminal investigation or other criminal proceedings in which the anti-personnel mine in question is or may be evidence.

(8) No person shall be authorized by the Commandant, Belize Defence Force for the purposes of subsection (2) of this section or into transfer, or to have in his possession, any anti-personnel description in numbers in excess of what is necessary for the purposes permitted by subsection (7) of this section.

Destruction of anti-personnel mines.

7.-(1) A person who is in possession of any anti-personnel mines shall within ten days of the commencement of this Act furnish the Commandant, Belize Defence Force with a list of anti-personnel mines in his possession setting out the purpose which are kept.

(2) The Commandant, Belize Defence Force shall determine the quantity to be destroyed on such day, at such place and time and under the supervision of such person as may be determined by the Commandant, Belize Defence Force.

(3) A person who destroys anti-personnel mines in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section shall, within five days of such destruction, furnish the Commandant, Belize Defence Force with a written breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mines destroyed.

(4) A person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, commits an offence and on summary conviction shall be liable to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for seven years.

8. (1) If the Commandant, Belize Defence Force has grounds to suspect that an object is prohibited object, and it does not appear to him that the only persons in possession of that object are persons whose possession of the object is prevented from being a contravention of section 4 by the provisions of section 6 of this Act, the Commandant, Belize Defence Force may serve a notice,

Search and destruction of prohibited objects.

(a) to any person who appears to the Commandant, Belize Defence Force to have the object; and

(b) to any person not falling within paragraph (a) who appears to the Commandant, Belize Defence Force to have an interest which the Commandant, Belize Defence Force believes will be materially affected by the service of the notice, to have the object destroyed or show cause why the object should not be destroyed within seven days of such notice.

(2) If any person who is served with the notice fails to destroy the object or fails to show cause, he commits an offence and on summary conviction is liable to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for seven years.

(3) If the Commandant, Belize Defence Force has cause to believe,

(a) that a prohibited object is on premises to which the public has access or which are occupied by a person who consents to action being taken under this section;

- (b) that a case is not one where the only persons whose possession of the object are persons whose possession of the object is prevented from being a contravention of section 4 by virtue of section 6 of this Act, the Commandant, Belize Defence Force may authorize a fit and proper person to enter the premises and to search them.

(4) If (whatever the nature of the premises concerned) the magistrate is satisfied, on information on oath, that there is reasonable cause to believe that there are grounds for issuing a warrant under this section in relation to any premises, he may issue a warrant in writing authorizing a fit and proper person acting under the authority of the Commandant, Belize Defence Force to enter the premises, if necessary by force, at any time within one month from the time of the issue of the warrant and to search them.

(5) A person who acts under the authorization or warrant under subsection (3) or (4) of this section, may take with him such other persons and such equipment as appear to him necessary.

(6) If a person enters premises under an authorization or warrant under subsection (3) or (4) of this section, and a prohibited object is found there, he may make the object safe by the disconnection of a detonator or otherwise seize and remove it if it is reasonably practicable.

9.-(1) Prohibited objects removed from any premises in pursuance of section 8 of this Act, shall be destroyed on such day, at such place and such time as may be determined by the Commandant, Belize Defence Force.

(2) Where prohibited objects are removed from any premises in pursuance to section 8 (6) of this Act, for destruction, the occupier of the premises commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for seven years.

Power to destroy
prohibited ob-
jects.

PART III

Fact-Finding Missions Under The Ottawa Convention

- 10.**—(1) (a) If it is proposed that any of the functions of a fact-finding mission should be carried out in Belize, the Minister of Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Minister and the Cabinet may issue an authorization under this section in respect of that mission.
- (b) Before issuing the authorization, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the advice of the Solicitor General, shall direct the Commandant, Belize Defence Force to obtain from the Magistrate a warrant to search private property within the area that the fact-finding mission is likely to inspect or search.
- (2) An authorization under this section shall,
- (a) contain a description of the area of Belize (the “specified area”) in which the fact-finding mission is to carry out its functions; and
- (b) state the names of the members of the mission.
- (3) Such an authorization shall have the effect of authorizing the members of the fact-finding mission,
- (a) to exercise within the specified area such rights of access, entry and unobstructed inspection as are required for the purpose of the carrying out of the mission’s functions under the Ottawa Convention; and
- (b) to do such other things within that area in connection with the carrying out of the functions as they are entitled to do by virtue of that Convention.

Authorisation of fact finding mission.

(4) Such an authorization shall, in addition, have the effect of authorizing any police officer to give such assistance as any member of the fact-finding mission may request for the purpose of facilitating the carrying out of the functions of the mission in accordance with the Ottawa Convention.

(5) Any police officer giving assistance in accordance with subsection (4) of this section, may use such reasonable force as he considers necessary for the purpose mentioned in that subsection.

(6) The occupier of,

(a) any premises in relation to which it is proposed to exercise a right of entry in reliance on an authorization under this section; or

(b) any premises on which an inspection is being carried out in reliance on such an authorization, or a person acting on behalf of the occupier of any such premises, shall be entitled to require a copy of the authorization to be shown to him by a member of the fact-finding mission.

(7) The validity of any authorization purporting to be issued under this section in respect of any fact-finding mission shall not be called in question in any court of law at any time before the conclusion of the carrying out of the mission's functions in Belize.

(8) Accordingly, where an authorization purports to be issued under this section in respect of any fact-finding mission, no proceedings (of whatever nature) shall be brought at any time before the conclusion of the carrying out of the mission's function in Belize if those proceedings would, if successful, have the effect of preventing, delaying or otherwise affecting the carrying out of the mission's functions.

(9) If in any proceedings any question arises whether a person at any time was, or was not, a member of any fact-finding mission, a certificate issued by or under the authority of the Minister of foreign

Affairs stating any fact relating to that question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(10) If any authorization is issued under this section, the Minister of Foreign Affairs may issue an amendment varying the specified area, and

- (a) from the time when the amendment is expressed to take effect, this section shall apply as if the specified area were the area as varied;
- (b) subsections (7) and (8) of this section, shall apply to the amendment as they apply to the authorization;
- (c) the Minister of Foreign Affairs may issue further amendments varying the specified area and in such a case paragraphs (a) and (b) shall apply.

11.-(1) A person commits an offence if,

Fact-finding missions offences.

- (a) he refuses without reasonable excuse to comply with any request made by a member of an authorized fact-finding mission or by a police officer assisting such a mission; and
- (b) that request is one made for the purpose of facilitating the carrying out by that mission of its functions under the Ottawa Convention.

(2) A person commits an offence if he wilfully obstructs any member of an authorized fact-finding mission in the carrying out of the mission's functions under the Ottawa Convention.

(3) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable,

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine of ten thousand dollars; or

- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine of fifty thousand dollars.

(4) In this section, “authorized fact-finding mission” means a fact-finding mission in respect of which an authorization has been issued under section 10 of this Act.

12.—(1) Members of a fact-finding mission shall enjoy,

Privileges and immunities for fact-finding missions.

- (a) immunity from suit and legal process in respect of things done or omitted to be done by them in the carrying out of their functions under the Ottawa Convention;
- (b) the like immunity from personal arrest or detention and the like inviolability for all papers and documents as, in accordance with the 1961 Articles, are accorded to a diplomatic agent; and
- (c) the like exemptions and privileges in respect of their personal baggage as, in accordance with article 36 of the 1961 Articles, are accorded to a diplomatic agent.

(2) The immunities, privileges and exemptions accorded to members of fact-finding missions by virtue of subsection (1) (b) and (c) of this section, shall be enjoyed by them at any time when they are in Belize,

- (a) for the purpose of carrying out in Belize any of the functions of the mission; or
- (b) while in transit to or from a country or territory in connection with the carrying out, in that country or territory, of any of the functions of the mission.

(3) If any of the immunities, privileges or exemptions accorded to a member of a fact-finding mission under this section is waived in any particular case by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, this section shall have effect in that case as if it did not confer that immunity, privilege or exemption on that member of the mission,

(4) If in any proceedings a question arises whether a person is or is not entitled to any immunity, privilege or exemption by virtue of this section, a certificate issued by or under the authority of the Minister of Foreign Affairs stating any fact relating to that question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(5) In this section “the 1961 Articles” means the Articles which are set out in the First Schedule to the Privileges and Immunities Diplomatic, Consular and International Organizations Act. (Articles of Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, Chap. 17-01, having the force of law in Belize).

13. The Minister of Finance, in consultation with the Minister may reimburse any person in respect of expenditure incurred in connection with the carrying out of the functions of a fact-finding mission.

Re-imbusement
of expenditure.

PART IV

Miscellaneous

14.-(1) The Commandant, Belize Defence Force may, by notice served on any person, require him to give, in such form and within such reasonable period as is specified in the notice, such information as the Commandant, Belize Defence Force has reasonable cause to believe is or will be needed in connection with anything to be done for the purposes of the Ottawa Convention and is described in the notice.

Information and
records for Ottawa
Convention pur-
pose.

(2) The Commandant, Belize Defence Force may, by notice served on any person, require him to keep such records as,

- (a) the Commandant, Belize Defence Force has reasonable cause to believe will facilitate the giving of information which that person may at any time be required to give under the subsection (1); and
- (b) are specified in the notice.

(3) A person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a notice served on him under subsection (1) or (2) commits an offence and is liable,

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine of twenty thousand dollars; or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine of fifty thousand dollars.

(4) A person on whom a notice is served under subsection (1) and who knowingly makes a false or misleading statement in response to it commits an offence and is liable,

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine of thirty thousand dollars; or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

(5) All information required to be furnished to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the Convention shall be furnished by the Minister.

Offences.

15.—(1) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Act or who assists, encourages or induces, in any way any other person to engage in any activity prohibited under section 4 commits an offence and on conviction on indictment is liable to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for seven years.

(2) Proceedings for an offence under this Act shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecution.

(3) Nothing in subsection (2) shall prevent the arrest, or the issue of a warrant for the arrest, of any person in respect of any offence under this Act, or the remanding in custody or on bail of any person charged with any such offence.

16. Subject to section 15 (2), proceedings for an offence under section 4 may be instituted by Order of the Comptroller of Customs and Excise if it appears to him that the offence has involved,

Customs and Excise proceedings.

- (a) the movement of a prohibited object into or out of any country or territory; or
- (b) any proposal or attempt to move a prohibited object into or out of any country or territory.

17. The Minister may by Order published in the *Gazette* amend the Schedule when Belize becomes a party to any amendments made to the Convention.

Amendment of the Schedule.

18. This Act shall bind the State.

Act to bind the State.

SCHEDULE

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES ACT

Ottawa Convention

[Section 2]

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and
Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction,
18 September 1997

PREAMBLE

The States Parties,

Determined to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, that kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequence for years after emplacement,

Believing it necessary to do their utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to face the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world, and to assure their destruction,

Wishing to do their utmost in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration of mine victims,

Recognizing that a total ban of anti-personnel mines would also be an important confidence-building measure,

Welcoming the adoption of the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restriction on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and calling for the early ratification of this Protocol by all States which have not yet done so,

Welcoming also United Nations General Assembly Resolution 51/45 S of 10 December 1996 urging all States to pursue vigorously an effective, legally binding international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines,

Welcoming furthermore the measures taken over the past years, both unilaterally and multilaterally, aiming at prohibiting, restricting or suspending the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines,

Stressing the role of public conscience in furthering the principles of humanity as evidenced by the call for a total ban of anti-personnel mines and recognizing the efforts to that end undertaken by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and numerous other non-governmental organizations around the world,

Recalling the Ottawa Declaration of 5 October 1996 and the Brussels Declaration of 27 June 1997 urging the international community to negotiate an international and legally binding agreement prohibiting the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines,

Emphasizing the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to this Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization in all relevant *fora* including, *inter alia* the United Nations, the Conference on Disarmament, regional organizations, and groupings, and review conferences of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,

Basing themselves on the principle of international humanitarian law that the right of the parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare not unlimited, on the principle that prohibits the employment in armed conflicts of weapons, projectiles and materials and methods of warfare of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering and on the principle that a distinction must be made between civilians and combatants,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

General obligations

1. Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances:
 - (a) to use anti-personnel mines;
 - (b) to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, anti-personnel mines;
 - (c) to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention.
2. Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

Article 2

Definitions

1. “Anti-personnel mine” means a mine designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons. Mines designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity or contact of a vehicle as opposed to a person, that are equipped with anti-handling devices, are not considered anti-personnel mines as a result of being so equipped.
2. “Mines” means ammunition designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person or a vehicle.

3. “Anti-handling device” means a device intended to protect a mine and which is part of, linked to, attached to or placed under the mine and which activates when an attempt is made to tamper with or otherwise intentionally disturb the mine.
4. “Transfer” involves, in addition to the physical movement of anti-personnel mines into or from national territory, the transfer of title to control over the mines, but does not involve the transfer of territory containing emplaced anti-personnel mines.
5. “Mined area” means an area which is dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of mines.

Article 3

Exceptions

1. Notwithstanding the general obligations under Article 1, the retention or transfer of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of an training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques is permit. The amount of such mines shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for the above-mentioned purposes.
2. The transfer of anti-personnel mines for the purpose of destruction is permitted.

Article 4

Destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines

Except as provided for in Article 3, each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines its owns or possesses, or that are under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than four years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.

Article 5

Destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas

1. Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.
2. Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The marking shall at least be to the standards set out in the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.
3. If a State Party believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines referred to in paragraph 1 within that time period, it may submit a request to a Meeting of the States Parties or a Review Conference for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of such anti-personnel mines, for a period of up to ten years.
4. Each request shall contain,
 - (a) the duration of the proposed extension;
 - (b) a detailed explanation of the reasons for the proposed extension, including;
 - (i) The preparation and status of work conducted under national demining programs;

- (ii) The financial and technical means available to the State Party for the destruction of all the anti-personnel mines; and
- (iii) Circumstances which impede the ability of the State Party to destroy all the anti-personnel mines in mined areas;
- (c) the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension; and
- (d) any other information relevant to the request for the proposed extension.

5. The Meeting of the States Parties or the Review Conference shall, taking into consideration the factors contained in paragraph 4, assess the request and decide by a majority of votes of States Parties present and voting whether to grant the request for an extension period.

6. Such an extension may be renewed upon the submission of a new request in accordance with paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of this Article. In requesting extension period a State Party shall submit relevant additional information on what has been undertaken in the previous extension period pursuant to this Article.

Article 6

International co-operation and assistance

1. In fulfilling its obligations under this Convention each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance, where feasible, from other States Parties to the extent possible.

2. Each State Party undertakes to facilitate and shall have the right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information concerning the implementation of this Convention. The States Parties shall not impose undue restrictions

on the provision of mine clearance equipment and related technological information for humanitarian purposes.

3. Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims and for mine awareness programs. Such assistance may be provided, *inter alia*, through the United Nations system, international, regional or national organizations, or institutions, the International Committee of the Red Cross, National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and their International Federation, non-governmental organizations, or on a bilateral basis.

4. Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for mine clearance and related activities. Such assistance may be provided, *inter alia*, through the United Nations system, international or regional organizations or institutions, non-governmental organizations or institutions, or on a bilateral basis, or by contributing to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance, or other regional funds that deal with demining.

5. Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

6. Each State Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations system, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.

7. States Parties may request the United Nations, regional organizations, other State Parties or other competent intergovernmental or non-governmental *fora* to assist its authorities in the elaboration of a national demining program to determine, *inter alia*,

- (a) the extent and scope of the anti-personnel mine problem.
- (b) the financial, technological and human resources that are required for the implementation of the program;

- (c) the estimated number of years necessary to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under the jurisdiction or control of the concerned State Party;
- (d) mine awareness activities to reduce the incidence of mine-related deaths;
- (e) assistance to mine victims;
- (f) the relationship between the Government of the concerned State party and the relevant governmental, inter-governmental or non-governmental entities that will work in the implementation of the program.

8. Each State Party giving and receiving assistance under the provision of article shall cooperate with a view to ensuring the full and prompt implementation of agreed assistance programs.

Article 7

Transparency measures

1. Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as soon as practicable, and in any event not later than 180 days after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party on:

- (a) the national implementation measures referred to in Article 9;
- (b) the total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by it, or under its jurisdiction or control, to include a breakdown of the type, quantity and if possible, lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine stockpiled;
- (c) to the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-

personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control, to include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced;

- (d) the types, quantities and, if possible lot numbers of all anti personnel mines retained or transferred for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, or transferred for the purpose of destruction, as well as the institutions authorized by a State Party to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3;
- (e) the status of programs for the conversion or de-commissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities;
- (f) the status of programs for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4 and 5, including details of the methods which will be used in destruction, the location of all destruction sites and the applicable safety and environmental standards as to be observed;
- (g) the types and quantities of all anti-personnel mines destroyed after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party, to include a breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, in accordance with Article 4 and 5, respectively, along with, if possible, the lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine in the case of destruction in accordance with Article 4;
- (h) the technical characteristics of each type of anti-personnel mine produced, to the extent known, and those currently owned or possessed by a State Party, giving, where reasonably possible, such categories of information as may facilitate identification and

clearance of anti-personnel mines, at a minimum, this information shall include the dimensions, fusing, explosive content, metallic content, colour photographs and other information which may facilitate mine clearance; and

- (i) the measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to the population in relation to all areas identified under paragraph 2 of Article 5.

2. The information provided in accordance with this Article shall be updated by the States Parties annually, covering the last calendar year, and reported to the Secretary-General of the United Nations not later than 30 April of each year.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit all such reports received to the State Parties.

Article 8

Facilitation and clarification of compliance

1. The States Parties agree to consult and cooperate with each other regarding the implementation of the provisions of this Convention, and to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance by State Parties with their obligations under this Convention.

2. If one or more States Parties wish to clarify and seek to resolve questions relating to compliance with the provisions of this Convention by another State Party, it may submit, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a Request for Clarification of that matter to that State Party. Such a request shall be accompanied by all appropriate information. Each State Party shall refrain from unfounded Requests for Clarification, care being taken to avoid abuse. A State Party that receives a Request for Clarification shall provide, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, within 28 days to the requesting State Party all information which would assist in clarifying this matter.

3. If the requesting State Party does not receive a response through the Secretary-General of the United Nations within that time period, or deems the response to the Request for Clarification to be unsatisfactory, it may submit the matter through the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit the submission, accompanied by all appropriate information pertaining to the Request for Clarification, to all State Parties. All such information shall be presented to the requested State Party which shall have the right to respond.

4. Pending the convening of any meeting of the States Parties, any of the States Parties concerned may request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to exercise his or her good offices to facilitate the clarification requested.

5. The requesting State Party may propose through the Secretary-General of the United Nations the convening of a Special Meeting of the States Parties to consider the matter. The Secretary-General of United Nations shall thereupon communicate this proposal and all information submitted by the State concerned, to all States Parties with a request that they indicate whether they favour a Special Meeting of the States Parties, for the purpose of considering the matter. In the event that within 14 days from the date of such communication, at least one-third of the States Parties favours such a Special Meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall convene this Special Meeting of the States Parties within a further 14 days. A quorum for this Meeting shall consist of a majority of States Parties.

6. The Meeting of the States Parties or the Special Meeting of the State Parties, as the case may be, shall first determine whether to consider the matter further, taking into account all information submitted by the State Parties concerned. The Meeting of the States Parties or the Special Meeting of the States Parties shall make every effort to reach a decision by consensus. If despite all efforts to that end no agreement has been reached, it shall take this decision by a majority of States Parties present and voting.

7. All States Parties shall cooperate fully with the Meeting of the States Parties or the Special Meeting of the States Parties in the fulfilment of its review of the matter, including any fact-finding missions that are authorized in accordance with paragraph 8.

8. If further clarification is required, the Meeting of the States Parties or the Special Meeting of the States Parties shall authorize a fact-finding mission and decide on its mandate by a majority of States Parties present and voting. At any time requested State Party may invite a fact-finding mission to its territory. Such a mission shall take place without a decision by a Meeting of the States Parties or a Special Meeting of the States Parties to authorize such a mission. The mission, consisting of up to 9 experts, designated and approved in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10, may collect additional information on the spot or in other places directly related to the alleged compliance issue under the jurisdiction or control of the requested State Party.

9. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall prepare and update a list of the names, nationalities and other relevant data of qualified experts provided States Parties and communicate it to all States Parties. Any expert included on this list shall be regarded as designated for all fact-finding mission unless a State Party declares it in writing. In the event of non-acceptance, the expert shall not participate in fact-finding missions on the territory or any other place under the jurisdiction or control of the objecting State Party, if the non-acceptance was declared prior to the appointment of the expert to such missions.

10. Upon receiving a request from the Meeting of the States Parties or a Special Meeting of the States Parties, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall, after consultations with the requested State Party, appoint the members of the mission, including its leader. Nationals of States Parties requesting the fact-finding mission or directly affected by it shall not be appointed to the mission. The members of the fact-finding mission shall enjoy privileges and immunities under Article VI of the Convention on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, adopted on 13 February 1946.

11. Upon at least 72 hours notice, the members of the fact-finding mission shall arrive in the territory of the requested State Party at the earliest opportunity. The requested State Party shall take the necessary administrative measures to receive, transport and accommodate the mission, and shall be responsible for ensuring the security of the mission to the maximum extent possible while they are on territory under its control.

12. Without prejudice to the sovereignty of the requested State Party, the fact-finding mission may bring into the territory of the requested State Party the necessary equipment which shall be used exclusively for gathering information on the alleged compliance issue. Prior to its arrival, the mission will advise the requested State Party of the equipment that it intends to utilize in the course of its fact-finding mission.

13. The requested State Party shall make all efforts to ensure that the fact-finding mission is given the opportunity to speak with all relevant persons who may be able to provide information related to the alleged compliance issue.

14. The requested State Party shall grant access for the fact-finding mission to all areas and installations under its control where facts relevant to the compliance issue could be expected to be collected. This shall be subject to any arrangements that the requested State Party considers necessary for:

- (a) the protection of sensitive equipment, information and areas;
- (b) the protection of any constitutional obligations the requested State Party may have with regard to proprietary rights, searches and seizures, constitutional rights; or
- (c) the physical protection and safety of the members of the fact-finding mission.

In the event that the requested State Party makes such arrangements, it shall make every reasonable effort to demonstrate through alternative means its compliance with this Convention.

15. The fact-finding mission may remain in the territory of the State Party concerned for no more than 14 days, and at any particular site no more days, unless otherwise agreed,

16. All information provided in confidence and not related to the subject matter of the fact-finding mission shall be treated on a confidential basis.

17. The fact-finding mission shall report, through the Secretary General of the United Nations, to the Meeting of the States Parties or the Special Meeting of the States Parties the results of its findings.

18. The Meeting of the States Parties or the Special Meeting of the States Parties shall consider all relevant information, including the report submitted by the fact-finding mission, and may request the requested State Party to take measures to address the compliance issue within a specific period of time. The requested State Party shall report on all measures taken in response to this request.

19. The Meeting of the States Parties or the Special Meeting of the States Parties may suggest to the States Parties concerned ways and means to further clarify or resolve the matter under consideration, including the initiation of appropriate procedures in conformity with international law. In circumstances where the issue at hand is determined to be due to circumstances beyond the control of the requested State Party, the Meeting of the States Parties or the Special Meeting of the States Parties may recommend appropriate measures, including the use of cooperative measures referred to in Article 6.

20. The Meeting of the States Parties or the Special Meeting of the States Parties shall make every effort to reach its decisions referred to in paragraph 18 and 19 by consensus, otherwise by a two-thirds majority of States Parties present and voting.

Article 9

National implementation measures

Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control.

Article 10

Settlement of disputes

1. The States Parties shall consult and cooperate with each other to settle any dispute that may arise with regard to the application or the interpretation of this Convention. Each State Party may bring any such dispute before the meeting of the States Parties.
2. The Meeting of the States Parties may contribute to the settlement of the dispute by whatever means it deems appropriate, including offering its good offices, calling upon the States Parties to a dispute to start the settlement procedure of their choice and recommending a time-limit for any agreed procedure.
3. This Article is without prejudice to the provisions of this Convention on facilitation and clarification of compliance.

Article 11

Meetings of the States Parties

1. The State Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention, including,
 - (a) the operation and status of this Convention;
 - (b) matters arising from the reports submitted under the provision Convention;
 - (c) international cooperation and assistance in accordance with Article 6;

- (d) the development of technologies to clear anti-personnel mines;
 - (e) submissions of States Parties under Article 8; and
 - (f) decision relating to submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5.
2. The First Meeting of the States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations within one year after the entry into force of this Convention. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations annually until the first Review Conference.
3. Under the conditions set out in Article 8, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall convene a Special Meeting of the States Parties.
4. States not parties to this Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations may be invited to attend these meetings as observers in accordance with the agreed Rules of Procedure.

Article 12

Review Conferences

1. A Review Conference shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations five years after the entry into force of this Convention. Further Review Conferences shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations if so requested by one or more States Parties, provided that the interval between Review Conferences shall in no case be less than five years. All States Parties to this Convention shall be invited to each Review Conference.

2. The purpose of the Review Conference shall be,
 - (a) to review the operation and status of this Convention;
 - (b) to consider the need for and the interval between further Meetings of the States Parties referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 11;
 - (c) to take decisions on submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5; and
 - (d) to adopt, if necessary, in its final report conclusions related to the implementation of this Convention.
3. States not parties to this Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations may be invited to attend each Review Conference as observers in accordance with the agreed Rules of Procedure.

Article 13

Amendments

1. At any time after the entry into force of this Convention any State Party may propose amendments to this Convention. Any proposal for an amendment be communicated to the Depositary, who shall circulate it to all States Parties and shall seek their views on whether an Amendment Conference should be convened to consider the proposal. If a majority of the States Parties notify the Depositary no later than 30 days after its circulation that they support further consideration of the proposal, the Depositary shall convene an Amendment Conference to which all States Parties shall be invited.
2. States not parties to this Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organization

International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-government organizations may be invited to attend each Amendment Conference as observers in accordance with the agreed Rules of Procedure.

3. The Amendment Conference shall be held immediately following a Meeting of the States Parties or a Review Conference unless a majority of the States Parties request that it be held earlier.

4. Any amendment to this Convention shall be adopted by a majority of two-thirds of the States Parties present and voting at the Amendment Conference. The Depositary shall communicate any amendment so adopted to the States Parties.

5. An amendment to this Convention shall enter into force for all States Parties to this Convention which have accepted it, upon the deposit with the Depositary of instruments of acceptance by a majority of States Parties. Thereafter it shall enter into force for any remaining State Party on the date of deposit instrument of acceptance.

Article 14

Costs

1. The costs of the Meetings of the States Parties, the Special Meeting of the States Parties, the Review Conferences and the Amendment Conferences shall be borne by the States Parties and States not parties to this Convention participating therein, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment adjusted appropriately.

2. The costs incurred by the Secretary-General of the United Nations under Articles 7 and 8 and the costs of any fact-finding mission shall be borne by the States Parties in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment adjusted appropriately.

Article 15

Signature

This Convention, done at Oslo, Norway, on 18 September, 1997, shall be open for signature at Ottawa, Canada, by all States from 3 December 1997 until 4 December 1997, and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 December 1997 until its entry into force.

Article 16

Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession

1. This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval of the Signatories.
2. It shall be open for accession by any State which has not signed the Convention.
3. The instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Depositary.

Article 17

Entry into force

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the sixth month after the month in which the 40th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession has been deposited.
2. For any State which deposits its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession after the date of the deposit of the 40th instrument or ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, this Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the sixth month after the date on which that State has deposited its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Article 18

Provisional application

Any State may at the time of its ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, declare that it will apply provisionally paragraph 1 of Article 1 of this Convention pending its entry into force.

Article 19

Reservations

The Articles of this Convention shall not be subject to reservations.

Article 20

Duration and withdrawal

1. This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.
2. Each State Party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this Convention. It shall give notice of such withdrawal to all other States Parties, to the Depository and to the United Nations Security Council. Such instrument of withdrawal shall include a full explanation of the reasons motivating this withdrawal.
3. Such withdrawal shall only take effect six months after the receipt of the instrument of withdrawal by the Depository. If, however, on the expiry of that six month period, the withdrawing State Party is engaged in an armed conflict, the withdrawal shall not take effect before the end of the armed conflict.
4. The withdrawal of a State Party from this Convention shall not in any way affect the duty of States to continue fulfilling the obligations assumed under any relevant rules of international law.

Article 21

Depositary

Secretary-General of the United Nations is hereby designated as the Depositary of this Convention.

Article 22

Authentic text

The original of this Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.