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Landmine Monitor is an initiative of the
International Campaign to Ban Landmines,
1997 Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate

LANDMINE MONITOR FACT SHEET**Prepared by Human Rights Watch**

for the Ninth Meeting of the Intersessional Standing Committee
on the General Status and Operation of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty

Geneva, Switzerland

9 February 2004

**Transparency Measures
(Article 7)**

Article 7 (Transparency Measures) of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty states that “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 steps taken to implement aspects of the convention. Thereafter, States Parties are obligated to report annually, by 30 April, on the preceding calendar year.

As of 1 February 2004, the UN had received initial Article 7 transparency measures reports from 116 States Parties. The overall compliance rate of States Parties submitting initial transparency measures reports is a highly commendable 88 percent, up from 75 percent reported in 2002 and 63 percent reported in 2001. Congratulations to those State Parties that have submitted initial reports in the last year: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Chile, DR Congo, Rep. Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Maldives, Niger, Seychelles, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela.

A total of 16 States Parties are late in submitting their initial transparency measures report as required by Article 7 and are listed below:

Equatorial Guinea	28 Aug 1999	Sierra Leone	30 Mar 2002
Namibia	28 Aug 1999	Cape Verde	30 Apr 2002
Guinea	28 Sep 1999	Eritrea	31 Jul 2002
Solomon Islands	28 Dec 1999	St. Vincent & Grenadines	31 Jul 2002
St. Lucia	29 Mar 2000	Nigeria	28 Aug 2002
Liberia	28 Nov 2000	Angola	30 Jun 2003
Cote d'Ivoire	30 May 2001	Central African Rep.	27 Oct 2003
Nauru	31 July 2001	Cyprus	27 Dec 2003

States Late in Submitting Initial Transparency Measures Reports

For **Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Namibia, and the Solomon Islands**, the deadline for submission of their initial report was in 1999, which represents what can only be considered gross negligence in fulfilling the treaty's transparency obligation.

Initial transparency measures reports will be due from nine States Parties in 2004. These deadlines are listed below:

State Party	Initial Report Due Date
Sao Tome e Principe	28 February 2004
Timor Leste	29 April 2004
Guyana	30 July 2004
Belarus	28 August 2004
Serbia & Montenegro	28 August 2004
Greece	28 August 2004
Turkey	28 August 2004
Sudan	28 September 2004
Burundi	28 September 2004

Upcoming Deadlines for Submission of Initial Reports

As of 1 February 2004, the rate of compliance for annual reports due on 30 April 2003 for calendar year 2002 was 65 percent. A total of 81 reports were submitted to the UN out of the 124 States Parties obligated to submit annual updates. The 43 States Parties not submitting an annual update in 2003 include: Andorra, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chad, Rep. Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Honduras, Kenya, Kiribati, Liberia, Madagascar, Maldives, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Paraguay, Portugal, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkmenistan, and Uruguay.

In a very encouraging development, several states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty have submitted voluntary Article 7 reports, including Lithuania in 2002 when it was a signatory, and Latvia and Poland in 2003. At the May 2003 Standing Committee meeting, Ambassador Jean Lint of Belgium (President of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties) suggested that all non-States Parties that voted in favor the UN General Assembly Resolution 57/74, which calls for universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, should be encouraged to submit voluntary transparency reports.

In 2003 the responsibility for maintaining the online database for Article 7 reports was shifted from UN offices in New York to Geneva. This transition did not go as smoothly as anticipated, due to technical and capacity problems, as well as the fact that many States Parties do not submit their reports in electronic format. Solving these problems should be a high priority during the next intersessional period to ensure that reports are posted in a timely and comprehensive manner, especially near the 30 April 2004 deadline for annual updates.