

FACT SHEET

**Banning Antipersonnel Mines: A 15-Year Overview of Major Findings
1999–2014**

June 2014

Progress documented by the *Landmine Monitor* report in the 15 years since the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty's entry-into-force on 1 March 1999 demonstrates that it has been extremely effective as the legal framework to alleviate the suffering caused by antipersonnel mines. Governments who join this treaty must stop the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel mines immediately and they must destroy all stockpiled antipersonnel mines within four years.

This document compares the major findings contained in the first annual *Landmine Monitor* report released in May 1999 at the Mine Ban Treaty's First Meeting of States Parties in Maputo with the current situation. It draws on findings selected from the subsequent 14 annual editions of the *Landmine Monitor* report and serves to highlight the work remaining to be done to universalize, fully implement, and ensure compliance with the Mine Ban Treaty.

Universalization

As of 1 March 1999, when the Mine Ban Treaty entered into force, a total of 71 states had ratified the treaty. This accounted for more than half the 122 states that signed after it was opened for signature in Ottawa on 3 December 1997. The record pace of the treaty's entry-into-force, with the required 40 ratifications achieved within one year after its adoption, remains unbeaten.

- The Mine Ban Treaty presently has a total of 161 States Parties. Of these, 132 signed and then ratified, 27 acceded, and two joined through the process of succession. See Appendix 1 for a chronological presentation of states acceptance of the treaty.
- The Marshall Islands is the only signatory yet to ratify, following Poland's ratification in December 2012.
- The last five states to join are South Sudan (July 2011), Tuvalu (September 2011), Finland (January 2012), Somalia (April 2012), and Poland (December 2012).

When the Mine Ban Treaty entered into force on 1 March 1999, 60 states remained outside including China, Russia, and the United States. Twenty-five of these states have since joined, including many with large stockpiles and many seriously affected by mine contamination, such as Afghanistan, Belarus, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Finland, Iraq, Kuwait, Serbia, Somalia, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Ukraine.

- Of the 36 states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty, almost all abide by its key provisions, indicating near-universal acceptance of the landmine ban.
- Eleven non-signatories have expressed the greatest reluctance to join the treaty, in part through their abstention vote on each annual UN General Assembly resolution calling for universalization and full implementation of the treaty since 1997: Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea, Syria, and the United States.

Use of antipersonnel mines

One of the most significant achievements of the treaty has been the degree to which any use of antipersonnel mines by any actor has been stigmatized throughout the world. *Landmine Monitor Report 1999* identified confirmed, or likely, use by 15 states¹ in 1998/1999.

- The only government that appears to have used antipersonnel mines continuously in the 1999–2013 period is Myanmar (Burma).
- Other states confirmed to have used antipersonnel mines in the period since 1999 include Eritrea (prior to acceding), Ethiopia (prior to ratification, but after signing), Georgia, Iraq (prior to acceding), Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan.
- The most extensive use of antipersonnel mines occurred on the border between India and Pakistan in 2001–2002.
- Only five states have used antipersonnel mines since 2009: Israel, Libya, Myanmar, Russia, and Syria.

Previous editions of the *Landmine Monitor* report have stated that there has never been a confirmed case of use of antipersonnel mines by the armed forces of a State Party since the Mine Ban Treaty became law in 1999.

- This achievement appears to be in jeopardy given the weight of evidence that has emerged that government forces in Yemen used antipersonnel mines in 2011.
- Allegations of use by Cambodia, Sudan, and Turkey require further clarification.

The *Landmine Monitor* report identified the use of antipersonnel mines by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in at least 27 countries² since 1999:

- Some NSAGs have committed not to use antipersonnel mines in Afghanistan, Burundi, India, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Philippines, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, and Western Sahara.³
- There are now fewer countries in which NSAGs use antipersonnel mines or victim-activated improvised explosive devices. *Landmine Monitor 2013* recorded NSAG use in eight countries (Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, and Yemen) and in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

¹ Afghanistan, Angola, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Israel, Myanmar (Burma), Russia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

² Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, DRC, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, and Yemen.

³ Since 1999, the total number of NSAGs recorded by Landmine Monitor to have declared that they would no longer use antipersonnel mines is 63. In the 15-year period over which these statements have been made, several of these groups have ceased to exist. For more information, see ICBL, *Landmine Monitor 2013* (Geneva: ICBL-CMC, November 2013), p.13, <http://www.the-monitor.org/lm/2013>.

Stockpiles and stockpile destruction

At the time when the Mine Ban Treaty entered into force, at least 124 states⁴ possessed stockpiles of antipersonnel mines.

- A total of 87 States Parties have since completed the destruction of their stockpiled antipersonnel mines, destroying more than 47 million mines since 1999.
- A total of nearly 11 million antipersonnel mines await destruction by seven States Parties,⁵ including Belarus, Greece, and Ukraine, which remain in violation of the treaty after failing to complete the destruction of their stockpiles by the treaty's four-year deadline.
- States not party to the Mine Ban Treaty that have reported the destruction of some stockpiles of antipersonnel mines since 1999 include China ("more than two million"), Israel, Russia (about 10 million), the United States, and Vietnam. Up to 32 of the 36 states not party to the treaty are believed to have stockpiles.

Production and transfer

According to *Landmine Monitor Report 1999*, more than 50 states produced antipersonnel mines at some point in the past, but most of the major producers from the 1970s to 1990s stopped manufacturing and joined the Mine Ban Treaty. Thirty-nine states have thus ceased production of antipersonnel mines, including three that are not party to the Mine Ban Treaty: Egypt, Israel, and Nepal.

- The Monitor currently identifies 12 states as producers of antipersonnel mines: China, Cuba, India, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, the United States, and Vietnam.
- Most of these countries are not actively producing mines but reserve the right to do so. Active production may be ongoing in as few as four countries (India, Myanmar, Pakistan, and South Korea).

In 1999, the *Landmine Monitor* reported that at least 34 states had exported antipersonnel landmines in the past, but found that a *de facto* global ban on the transfer of antipersonnel mines had been in effect since the mid-1990s. A low level of illicit trade and of unacknowledged or denied trade has continued.

- The abrupt appearance of mine types not previously encountered in Sudan and Yemen in 2011 raises the specter that some form of illicit market for antipersonnel mines exists.
- Additionally, demining organizations in Afghanistan reported from 2002–2004 removing and destroying many hundreds of Iranian-made antipersonnel mines, date-stamped 1999 and 2000, from abandoned Northern Alliance frontlines.

⁴ For details see ICBL, "Factsheet: Antipersonnel landmine stockpiles and their destruction," December 1999, <http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/content/view/full/18719>.

⁵ Belarus, Finland, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Poland, Somalia, and Ukraine.

- A significant number of states outside the Mine Ban Treaty have enacted or extended export moratoria including China, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States. In addition, representatives of Cuba, Egypt, and Vietnam have claimed not to export antipersonnel mines, although no formal unilateral prohibition has been put into place.

Mines retained for training

A total of 75 States Parties have reported that they retain antipersonnel mines, of which 42 have retained more than 1,000 mines; three (Finland, Bangladesh, and Turkey) each retain more than 12,000 mines.

- After reviewing their requirements for retaining mines, Bhutan, Slovenia, and South Africa have reduced their holdings to fewer than 1,000 mines.
- Eighty-four States Parties have declared that they do not retain any antipersonnel mines for training and research purposes, including 30 states that stockpiled antipersonnel mines in the past.
- Eleven States Parties⁶ have never reported consuming any mines retained for permitted purposes since the treaty entered into force for them.

Transparency reporting

Nearly all States Parties have submitted initial transparency reports detailing the steps taken to implement the Mine Ban Treaty.

- Equatorial Guinea (due in 1999) and Tuvalu (due in 2012) have never submitted initial reports.
- The annual reporting rate has diminished in recent years with only 50–60% of States Parties submitting annual updates.
- Morocco was the only state not party to submit a voluntary transparency report for 2012, its sixth voluntary report. Poland, as a signatory submitted ten voluntary reports prior to its ratification. In previous years, Azerbaijan (2008 and 2009), Lao PDR (2010), Mongolia (2007), Palestine (2011), and Sri Lanka (2005) also submitted voluntary reports.

⁶ Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Finland, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo.

Appendix 1: Chronological order of States' acceptance⁷ of the Mine Ban Treaty

2014	
2013	
2012	Finland, Poland, Somalia
2011	South Sudan, Tuvalu
2010	
2009	
2008	
2007	Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Palau
2006	Brunei, Cook Islands, Haiti, Montenegro
2005	Bhutan, Latvia, Ukraine, Vanuatu
2004	Estonia, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea
2003	Belarus, Burundi, Cyprus, Greece, Guyana, Lithuania, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Turkey
2002	Afghanistan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic Congo, Gambia, Suriname
2001	Algeria, Cape Verde, Chile, Congo, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Malta, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay, Zambia
2000	Albania, Bangladesh, Botswana, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Kiribati, Maldives, Mauritania, Moldova, Nauru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Seychelles, Togo, Tanzania
1999	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iceland, Italy, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Venezuela
1997-1998	Andorra, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, France, Germany, Grenada, Guinea, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lesotho, FYR Macedonia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niue, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Kingdom, Yemen, Zimbabwe

⁷ "Acceptance" signifies the formal presentation of willingness to be fully bound to a treaty through ratification, accession, or succession.