

**Declaration by Signatories to the "Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call
for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine
Action¹" to the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World,
30 November to 4 December 2009**

We, the Signatories,

Having regard to the declaration to the Nairobi Summit by Signatories to Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* adopted at the First Meeting of Signatories to the *Deed of Commitment*, 31 October - 2 November 2004.

Having regard to their determination to contribute to eradicate the scourge of anti-personnel (AP) mines and to achieve a truly mine-free world.

- A. Bearing in mind that every year there are thousands of new victims of AP mines, most of them civilians; that the presence of mines is a factor that impedes economic and social development and has a serious and long-lasting humanitarian impact;
 - B. Whereas today the majority of conflicts are non-international, and AP mines may be laid in this context by both State armed forces and armed non-State actors;
 - C. Whereas to date 156 States² have ratified or acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention³, but concerned that 44 others remain outside of it;
 - D. Whereas to date 39 armed non-State actors have signed the *Deed of Commitment*, but concerned that many other actors still have made no commitment to ban AP mines;
 - E. Whereas there has been overall compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* by signatories, but deeply concerned by the fact that a few States obstruct access to humanitarian actors for mine action and to monitor these commitments;
 - F. Recognizing the work of non-governmental organizations, such as Geneva Call, in furthering the aim of a world free of AP mines;
 - G. Recognizing the efforts of States Parties to the Convention to support mine action in areas under the control or influence of armed non-State actors, but bearing in mind that communities living in these areas still have poor access to humanitarian assistance;
1. Reaffirm our commitment to ban the use of AP mines, to destroy stockpiled AP mines and to cooperate actively in mine action and monitoring;
 2. Call on those 44 States that have not yet done so, to accede to the Convention as soon as possible;
 3. Call on all armed non-State actors and internationally non-recognized or partially recognized States to ban the use of AP mines and to sign the *Deed of Commitment* or undertake similar commitments as soon as possible;
 4. Commit to continue to actively promote, in collaboration with Geneva Call, the *Deed of Commitment* among non-signatories;

¹ Hereafter the *Deed of Commitment*.

² Hereafter the States Parties.

³ Hereafter the Convention.

5. Urge States Parties, notably where armed non-State actors are present, to support efforts made by humanitarian mine action agencies to promote adherence to the AP mine ban by armed non-State actors;
6. Urge all armed non-State actors and internationally non-recognized or partially recognized States actively to facilitate the work of humanitarian mine action agencies in implementing humanitarian mine action in areas under their control or influence, notably by providing safe and unhindered access for those agencies and their equipment;
7. Urge States Parties, notably where armed non-State actors are present, to support efforts made by humanitarian mine action agencies to implement mine action activities and, eventually through a formal mechanism, monitor the implementation of the AP mine ban in areas under the control or influence of armed non-State actors, particularly by providing safe and unhindered access for those agencies and their equipment;
8. Call on States Parties to support funding requests for mine action in areas under the control or influence of armed non-State actors;
9. Call on the mine action community to assist or increase assistance for demining, victim assistance and mine risk education programmes in areas under the control or influence of armed non-State actors having signed the *Deed of Commitment*;
10. Urge all States and armed non-State actors and internationally non-recognized or partially recognized States involved, or about to be involved in peace or ceasefire negotiations, to include the landmine ban and mine action provisions in agreements.

Geneva, 19 June 2009