

Minekonvensjonen 10 år 2. mars 2009

Talepunkter for ambassadør Mona Juul i New York

*Event with panel including Jody Williams, Perm Rep Claudia Blum, Colombia, Norway and Human Rights Watch.*

1. When the Mine Ban Convention entered into force ten years ago, it was common wisdom that the global humanitarian crisis caused by landmines was an almost impossible challenge to tackle for the world community. Estimates for clearing the mines in the worst affected countries ranged from many decades to centuries. The first decade with the Mine Ban Convention has changed the situation fundamentally. **A mine free world is no longer a utopian vision, but a tangible aim we can reach within the coming decade if we keep the momentum up.**
2. Since the Mine Ban Convention entered into force, we have had a decade of targeted and unprecedented investment of human and financial resources into actions to clear mine affected areas, destroy landmines and to assist landmine victims. This investment has yielded overwhelming returns.
3. Landmines and the mere suspicion of their presence caused major obstacles for peace and reconstruction processes in areas ravaged by wars and armed conflicts. Ten years of mine action have ensured that vital infrastructure such as roads, agricultural land and markets; schools and playgrounds, and resettlement areas for

refugees no longer pose a threat to civilians. So in addition to removing the direct danger, mine action has also made significant **contributions to building peace and security in fragile post-conflict environments.**

4. Landmines cause lifetime suffering for the victims and their families. When the Convention was negotiated in Oslo in 1997, it was a hard struggle to include some minimal language in the text on the need for **assistance to landmine victims.** Now victim assistance has progressed into a whole field of expertise in its own right and holds an undisputed place in the implementation of the Convention. The groundbreaking 2006 Convention on Rights for People with Disabilities and the newly adopted Convention on Cluster Munitions builds on, and represent a further strengthening of provisions of victim assistance. The achievements in the latter conventions stems directly from the work of the Mine Ban Convention.
5. The Mine Ban Convention is an instrument on **humanitarian** disarmament. With its obligations for destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, it has secured the safe and controlled destruction of almost 100 million antipersonnel mines in more than 80 countries. This is a concrete and measurable contribution to effective non-proliferation and strengthening of the security of millions of people.
6. Norway has been a strong supporter of the Mine Ban Convention since the process started in 1996. In addition to providing significant political and other support to mine action programmes in many countries, Norway has given priority to ensuring effective

and efficient implementation and compliance with the convention.

**As part of our commitment to the treaty we have taken the responsibility to be president-designate of the Convention's Second Review Conference, the Cartagena Summit for a mine free world, later this year.**

7. The summit provides us with an opportunity to communicate the impressive progress that has been made towards a mine free world in the first decade of the Convention. At the same time we need to focus on the remaining challenges for the States Parties and our partners towards the full implementation and *compliance* of the Convention.
8. Together with the host country Colombia, Norway will use the summit to focus the world's attention on the humanitarian essence of the Convention: **the rights of people and the commitment to survivors and to mine-affected communities**. States need to recommit their support to a life in dignity for all who every day live with the consequences of landmines. We also need to ensure that the civilian population affected by landmines are heard and involved, and that we do not lose sight of the gender perspective when deciding on future actions.
9. The Cartagena Summit is also an opportunity for us to promote the international norm created by the Convention that use of anti-personnel mines is prohibited and unacceptable, and encourage further international cooperation towards strengthening human security. Evidence of the acceptance of such a norm is easily found;

Last December 94 states signed the new Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo.

10. The Convention on Cluster Munitions prohibits all stockpiling, production and use of cluster munitions and has strong obligations for assistance to victims and affected communities. In its structure it is quite similar to the 1997 Mine Ban Convention. In both cases a broad and representative group of member states formed a strategic alliance with civil society and the UN organisations and facilitated open, inclusive and transparent consultation and negotiation processes.
11. Norway will continue to be a strong supporter of international cooperation to enhance peace and security. Anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions are two important areas, but much remain – from small arms to nuclear weapons. This week marks the start of work towards a new Arms Trade Treaty. If we are successful, such a treaty can be an important tool in the efforts to control the flow of arms to areas affected by armed violence. We need to do more to stop the use of sexual violence against civilians in armed conflicts and we need to do more to secure effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 on women peace and security.
12. It is a priority for Norway to improve the security and protection of civilians in armed conflicts. The Mine Ban Convention broke new

ground and demonstrated what is possible. The first decade with the Convention has forcefully demonstrated to us the relevance and significance of international cooperation, where states, civil society, the UN and ICRC cooperate actively and creatively towards a common goal. In the coming decade we have the opportunity to continue this partnership to improve human security for all those threatened by armed violence.

Thank you