

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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There are many treaties in force, entering into force or currently under negotiation that have provisions for different types of on-site inspections, investigations and visits. It is timely to look at these in the round. A common factor in many disarmament and arms control regimes, recent events have perhaps eroded the image of OSIs. Much can be learned from comparing different OSI programmes. Reflecting on common denominators can help us take advantage of synergy across treaties. This issue of Disarmament Forum will examine OSIs from a number of different regimes, comparing and contrasting different approaches in the hope of promoting best practices and informing ongoing negotiations.

This issue makes a contribution to UNIDIR's research programme on the implementation of treaties. Often once a treaty has been negotiated and is in force, international focus is removed. Yet in some ways the implementation phase of treaties is far more difficult and more important than the negotiation phase.

The implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (also known as the Ottawa Convention) has now begun. The first meeting of states parties was held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 3–7 May 1999. It meant a great deal to many of the delegates to be in a mine-affected country, the most appropriate venue for the first meeting. In addition to the positive meeting, the week included several highlights:

- The International Campaign to Ban Landmines launched the first edition of the Landmine Monitor. This extensive verification exercise includes information on every country in respect to landmines. To obtain a copy of the report or to find out how to participate in the research for the next edition of the Landmine Monitor, see page 101.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross launched its new educational video, "The Ottawa Treaty: Towards a world free of anti-personnel mines". Concise and informative, running just over 13 minutes, the video reviews the obligations instituted by the treaty: the destruction of existing stocks, the clearance of mine-infested areas and the setting up of prevention and assistance programmes. The video is available from the ICRC free of charge, in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Chinese (Russian and Arabic to be available soon). Please contact: ICRC, Centre for Public Information, 19 avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva for further information.

Issue 4, 1999 of Disarmament Forum will be "A Framework for a Mine-Free World". We will be examining the essential elements of the Ottawa Convention, including the importance of NGOs, the role of intersessional work, ongoing monitoring, victim assistance and verification.

Note: In the article by Frank von Hippel in issue 2 of Disarmament Forum, a year was misidentified. In Table 1, page 37, entries for "Separated civilian plutonium" for the United Kingdom and France are for the end of 1997, not 1996. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Kerstin Hoffman