

Model United Nations of Hamburg Research Report for Fourth Committee of the General Assembly

Forum:	Fourth Committee of the General Assembly – GA4
Topic:	Further actions to support the defusing and destruction of landmines and explosive remnants of war
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Description of the problem, Background & General Information:

Ever since the production of landmines and explosives began, there have always been signs of these weapons post-war. Crisis occurring throughout the world are constantly increasing the danger for the civilians. Children who live in places where there is the possibility of landmines or other explosive remnants of war are constantly at risk, their lives are at risk.

Once a landmine is stepped on and the pressure is released again, it detonates. Landmines are more often than not hidden in the ground so enemy targets and other hostile movement are not able to identify them, this is also why landmines are considered efficient although highly dangerous.

Ever since landmines became a used weapon in warfare, remnants have been left behind which can affect and damage the population of a post-war country. Almost every UN Member State has agreed to at least one of several treaties, conventions or resolutions concerning this topic and how to deal with it.

Definition of important key terms:

- Landmine: an explosive device that is designed to destroy or disable enemy targets, they detonate once the pressure is changed and the pressure is released again.
- Explosive remnants: also known as ERW is a term used in the humanitarian aid and sustainable development domains to describe the explosive threats remaining in a post-conflict society.
- Defusing: is to remove the triggering point of an explosive, to make something less dangerous, tense or hostile.
- Destruction: is the process of damaging something so severely that it cannot be repaired or seize to exist.

Relevant Treaties, UN resolutions and actions taken (see links):

- Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, adopted October 1980¹
- Convention on Cluster Munitions, adopted May 2008²

¹ <http://www.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/500?OpenDocument> and https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVI-2&chapter=26&lang=en

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, adopted 1997³ (also referred to as the Ottawa Treaty)

Position of involved Countries and Parties:

USA is the only NATO country which has not signed the Ottawa Treaty however the US provides around 20% of all the funds needed for clearing landmines, informing and supporting people.

Questions which should be considered by the delegates during their further research:

- How is your country affected by this issue?
- What is your nations view on the topic?
- Did your nation sign any treaties or resolutions regarding this topic?
- How has your nation acted on this issue?
- How is your country currently acting on the issue?
- What does your nation want to do about the issue in the future?
- What are the positions of the key players on this issue?

Useful links and sources:

- <http://www.jmu.edu/cisr/journal/10.1/feature/smith/smith.shtml>
- <http://www.unicefusa.org/press/releases/mines-and-explosive-remnants-war-threaten-children%E2%80%99s-lives-libya/8051>
- http://www.handicap-international.us/broken_promise_u_s_delegation_refuses_to_comment_on_results_of_count_ry_s_landmine_policy_review

²<http://www.clusterconvention.org/files/2011/01/Convention-ENG.pdf> and <http://www.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/620?OpenDocument>

³ <http://www.icbl.org/media/604037/treatyenglish.pdf>