



Sample position paper

The following was written based on Spain's report from the Landmine Monitor

www.icbl.org/1m/2004/spain.html

Committee: _____

Topic: Landmines

Country: Spain

Delegate: Your name, school name

The Mine-Ban Treaty is an international agreement that serves to ban anti-personnel mines from being produced, stored, or transferred among nations. It also advocates for their destruction. When this agreement was drafted in Ottawa in 1997 it was signed by 122 governments. This treaty is the most complete document available that takes action against landmines. To date, the Mine-Ban Treaty has been ratified by 147 countries. There are still 40 countries that have not signed nor ratified the Mine-Ban Treaty. Spain has signed the treaty along with the members of the European Union.

Spain believes that in order to have the full impact of the treaty all states must sign and ratify the Min-Ban Treaty. In order to contribute to the success of the Treaty, Spain has completed the destruction of 850,000 landmines that were stockpiled. Spain has also had United States anti-personnel mines removed from their country.

Spain has encouraged other states to join the treaty during bilateral negotiations with several countries, and has contributed over \$4.5 million dollars to mine action. Spain has also prohibited its military from using anti-personnel mines under any circumstances when working with non-signatory nations.

In 2001, the international Demining Training Center (Centro Internacional de Desminado) was established and Spain has sponsored several training courses for demining teams. They have also provided several training sessions for personnel from Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq and Kosovo. Spain has also provided monies for survivor assistance, families of mine victims, and capacity building in Cambodia, Kosovo and Nicaragua.

Spain also has a large non-governmental organisation (NGO) presence in Spain. The Movement for Peace, Teachers for Bosnia, and the Pedagogical Studies Group have each participated in and have contributed to landmine education for adults and children. The movement for peace has also organised several activities in schools across Barcelona, and nearby areas. Acadia, another Spanish NGO carried out victim assistance program in Cambodia. There they provided education, wheelchairs, and shelter for children with disabilities.

A way to bring more awareness to the landmine issue is to participate in dialogue with nations that have not signed or ratified the Mine-Ban Treaty. United Nations resolution A/52 outlines supporting the Mine-Ban Treaty. By using this and the mine ban treaty, as well as information from the NGO's and personal accounts of the devastating effects of landmines; Spain hopes to encourage the 40 states that have yet to sign and ratify the Mine-Ban Treaty to do so and to begin adhering to the provisions set by it.