

Edinburgh Statement: Landmines

World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM)

Statement by the WADEM during the 14th World Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland
20 May 2005

Whereas, anti-personnel landmines still are scattered throughout more than 70 countries; *and*

Whereas, each year landmines kill, blind, or maim more than 30,000 citizens (mostly non-combatants, and women and children from developing countries (Statement on Children in Disasters, WADEM General Assembly, Edinburgh, 18 May 2005); *and*

Whereas, it has been mandated that the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) foster education, research, and the exchange of information concerning the management of disasters; *and*

Whereas, the support and expertise of the WADEM is needed more than ever to continue the progress in landmine action, as noted by the Nairobi Review Conference (December 2004), for further reducing the existing 100 million anti-personnel landmines in the world; *and*,

Whereas, the WADEM distributes publications, conducts educational programs, stimulates research; and may develop "health-political influence".

Therefore, be it resolved that the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) will:

1. Support the 2004 Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan 2004–2009; *and*
2. Become involved in the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan 2004–2009 as stated in Action #8 of Chapter I in the Final Nairobi Document by establishing a working relationship with the Intersessional Committee of the Victim Assistance of the MBT; *and*
3. Seek dialogue and networking with governmental and non-governmental organizations associated with these efforts; *and*
4. Encourage its members to support mine-victim rehabilitation and recovery programs; *and*
5. Encourage its members as well as other parties, to participate in this process.

*Passed Unanimously
All Participants
Closing Session
14th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine
Edinburgh, Scotland
20 May 2005*

The Resolution on the following page was published in *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* 1998;13(1):2–3.

Anti-Personnel Landmines
World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine

Resolution of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, in Assembly at the 10th World Congress at Mainz, Germany, 26 September 1997

Whereas, more than 100 million anti-personnel landmines are scattered throughout some 68 countries of the world;
and

Whereas, each year, these weapons kill, blind, or maim more than 27,000 citizens, most of whom are non-combatants, particularly women and children in developing countries, and that such injuries are cruel and life-changing to the survivors; *and*

Whereas, it is the mandate of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine to foster education, research, and the exchange of information concerning the management of disasters; *and*

Whereas, the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, through its publication, *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*, has reported in January 1996 on the devastating effects of these weapons on individuals and on the public.

Therefore, be it resolved that the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine:

1. Supports the designation of such devices as cruel and inappropriate weapons of war; *and*
2. Supports efforts for the prevention of such devastating injuries through a global ban on the manufacture, export, stockpiling, and use of such devices as proposed by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Oslo Agreement, and the Ottawa Treaty; *and*
3. Supports the acceleration of demining programs, including the training of medical support teams for demining crews; *and*
4. Encourages the expansion of training programs aimed at improving the initial management of injuries caused by anti-personnel landmines; *and*
5. Encourages and supports further research and expansion of rehabilitation programs appropriate to the culture and resources of countries affected by anti-personnel landmines; *and*
6. Supports further research into the disruption of the public health caused by the laying of anti-personnel landmines in and around communities; *and*
7. Encourages the exchange of research and clinical information through a regular international congress devoted to the health aspects of anti-personnel landmines, and the establishment of a system of scholarships and fellowships to encourage research and program development to combat this serious challenge to the health of the world.

*Passed Unanimously
General Assembly
10th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine
Mainz, Germany
26 September 1997*