



Ottawa Survey Results

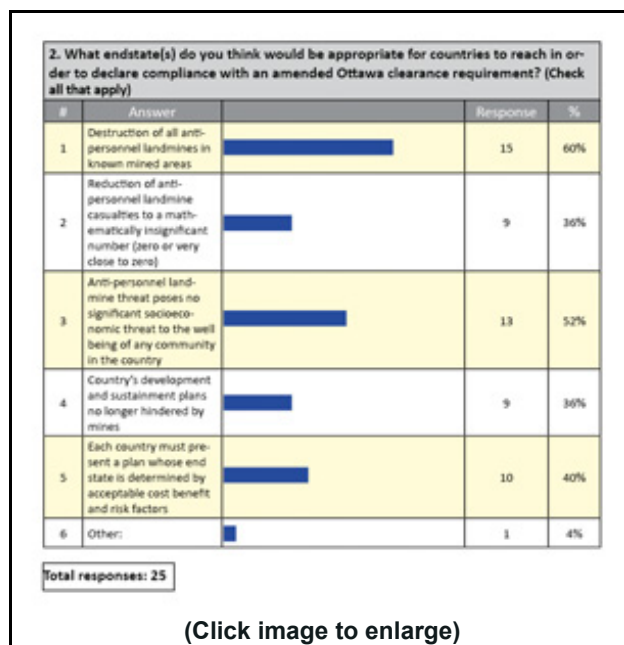
by Nicole Neitzey [Center for International Stabilization and Recovery]

In the last issue, *The Journal* ran an [Editorial by Dennis Barlow](#) suggesting the Ottawa Convention should be amended to redefine the endstate required for clearance goals to be met. We then asked our readers to submit their opinion via a short online survey.

Below we provide a summary of the raw responses we received to this survey (as of 15 March 2010). The results are not scientific, and only Question 1 was a required response, which is why there are not the same number of responses for all the questions. Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers to Questions 2 and 4 (unless they chose “none of the above”).

1. Do you believe the Ottawa Convention should be amended to clarify the endstate required for clearance efforts?			
#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	13	39%
2	No	20	61%
	Total	33	100%

(Click image to enlarge)



It is worth noting that although 61 percent of respondents answered “No” to Question 1, at least three of those in this category chose options other than #1—“Destruction of all anti-personnel landmines in known mined areas”—to Question 2, which is contradictory.

3. Should the endstate for each country be the same or should each have the option to negotiate an agreeable endstate based on its own unique situation?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	All countries should have the same endstate	15	58%
2	Each country should be allowed to negotiate an endstate unique to its circumstances	11	42%
Total		26	100%

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4. Which of the following arguments against clearing all anti-personnel landmines would justify changes to clearance requirements? (Check all that apply)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	The cost of demining will be unreasonably expensive; funds could be used for more urgent purposes	7	28%
2	There have been no casualties in a certain number of years	6	24%
3	There is virtually no use for the contaminated land; it can be marked and monitored	11	44%
4	The clearance is likely to cause significant harm to the environment of the area (e.g., soil, vegetation, wildlife, etc.)	9	36%
5	Clearance may produce a greater danger (deminer casualties) than not clearing	6	24%
6	Other	1	4%
7	None of the above	11	44%

Total responses: 25

(Click image to enlarge)

For Question 3, one person who answered “No” to Question 1 chose option #2—“Each country should be allowed to negotiate an endstate unique to its circumstances”—and at least two No’s from Question 1 gave responses other than “none of the above” to Question 4. These inconsistencies would seem to indicate that there are special circumstances in which some people who regard full mine clearance as the only option may actually consider other scenarios to be acceptable.

5. If states were allowed to forgo clearance of every last mine through an amendment to the Ottawa Convention, would you favor an option similar to the idea of carbon trading, in which countries that have reached an agreeable endstate would be able to offset their need for clearance of all mines by providing an equivalent donation to another country (or countries)?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	9	35%
2	No	17	65%
Total		26	100%

(Click image to enlarge)

We are providing the raw responses to the questionnaire, allowing you to draw your own conclusions to the survey. Please keep in mind that the low number of responses does not allow for statistical validity.

Biography



Nicole Neitzey is the Technical Editor for *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action* and serves as Grants Officer for the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery/Mine Action Information Center. She has been working for CISR/MAIC since 2001. Neitzey graduated from James Madison University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in technical and scientific communication and an online publications specialization.

Contact Information

Nicole Neitzey

Technical Editor/Grants Officer
The Journal of ERW and Mine Action
Mine Action Information Center
Center for International Stabilization and Recovery
James Madison University
800 South Main Street, MSC 4902
Harrisonburg, VA 22807 / USA
Tel: + 1 540 568 3356
Fax: + 1 540 568 8176
E-mail: neitzenx@jmu.edu
Web site: <http://maic.jmu.edu> or <http://c isr.jmu.edu>



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