

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Facts and Figures



What is the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention?

- This is a short way of referring to the 1997 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.
- The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention¹ is the international community's comprehensive response to the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines, weapons that are indiscriminate and that last for decades after conflicts have ended.
- The Convention was adopted in Oslo on 18 September 1997 and opened for signature in Ottawa on 3 and 4 December 1997 at a ceremony that featured the participation of dozens of world leaders. This year, the 20th anniversary of the signature of the Convention will be celebrated.
- For their determination in calling for the Convention, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and its coordinator Jody Williams were awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Convention entered into force on 1 March 1999.
- At their Third Review Conference in 2014, States Parties adopted at a high political level the *Maputo + 15 Declaration* in which they committed to intensify efforts to promote universal adherence and observance of the Convention's norms, destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines, address mined areas and assist mine victims and expressed their aspiration to meet their goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025. At the same conference, States Parties further adopted the Maputo Action Plan 2014 – 2019 to guide their efforts.
- In 2017, the Convention is presided over by Austria. The presidency will aim to encourage cooperation and partnerships amongst all States Parties as well as with civil society to achieve tangible results in the implementation of the Convention. Austria has also announced its intention to reach out to the remaining States that have not yet acceded to or ratified the Convention and to further the full inclusion of survivors in close cooperation with other Convention office holders and relevant organisations.

What is the purpose of the Convention?

The purpose of the Convention is “to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines” through the pursuit of four core aims:

- Universal acceptance of a ban on anti-personnel mines
- Destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines
- Clearance of mined areas
- Assistance to mine victims

¹ Article 2 of the Convention defines an anti-personnel mine as a “mine designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons.” Article 2 defines a mine as “a munition designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person or a vehicle.”

How many countries have joined?

162 States have ratified or acceded to the Convention. They include:

- Most of the States that at one time used, stockpiled, produced or transferred anti-personnel mines
- The vast majority of States that are or have been affected by anti-personnel mines
- Every State in the Americas, except Cuba and the United States
- Every State in sub-Saharan Africa
- Every Member State of the European Union

Year	Number of ratifications / accessions	Year	Number of ratifications / accessions
1997	3	2006	4
1998	55	2007	4
1999	32	2008-2010	-
2000	19	2011	2
2001	13	2012	3
2002	8	2013	-
2003	11	2014	1
2004	3	2015-2016	-
2005	4	2017	?

- There are 35 States not party to the Convention, including one signatory State.
- At the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, 17 States not party voted in favour of the resolution on the implementation of the Convention and 17 States not party abstained.

How much progress has been achieved since 1999 and what is the remaining challenge?

Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

States Parties have four years after entry-into-force to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under their jurisdiction or control.

- Of the 90 States Parties that reported stockpiled anti-personnel mines, 87 have completed their stockpile destruction programmes, with over 51 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed.
- In addition, 13 States Parties have reported the destruction of approximately 205,000 previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines after deadlines had passed.
- The work continues for Greece, Oman and Ukraine which together still hold approximately 5.5 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

State Party	Anti-personnel mines remaining to be destroyed	Art.4 projected completion date
Greece	643,267	Timeline to be established
Oman	10,682	Within the Article 4 deadline (1 Feb 2019)
Ukraine	4,911,589	2021

Retaining anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes

The retention or transfer of a number of antipersonnel mines by States Parties for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques is permitted. The amount of such mines shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for the above-mentioned purposes.

- There are 77 States Parties which reported retaining 164,268 anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques as permitted by Article 3 of the Convention.
- A number of States Parties have not reported on the use or plans for the use of retained anti-personnel mines in accordance with the purposes permitted by Article 3 and/or have retained the same number of anti-personnel mines for a number of years.

Destroying anti-personnel mines in mined areas

States Parties shall make every effort to identify all areas under their jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. States Parties have ten years to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas and return these areas to a state for normal human activity. If the States Parties are unable to do so in ten years, they may ask for an extension of their deadlines.

Of the 61 States Parties that have reported mined areas, 30 have reported that they have completed implementation of their mine clearance obligations in compliance with the Convention, with tens of millions of square metres of previously dangerous land due to the presence or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines released.

Year of completion	State Party
1999	Bulgaria
2002	Costa Rica
2004	Djibouti and Honduras
2005	Guatemala and Suriname
2006	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
2007	Swaziland
2008	France and Malawi
2009	Albania, Greece, Rwanda, Tunisia and Zambia
2010	Nicaragua
2011	Nigeria
2012	Congo, Republic of, Denmark, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Jordan and Uganda
2013	Bhutan, Germany, Hungary and Venezuela
2014	Burundi
2015	Mozambique
2017	Algeria

31 States Parties are still in the process of fulfilling their mine clearance obligations the majority of which have faced circumstances that have led them to request extensions.

State Party	Article 5 deadline
Afghanistan	1 March 2023
Angola	1 January 2018
Argentina	1 January 2020
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 March 2019
Cambodia	1 January 2020
Chad	31 December 2019
Chile	1 March 2020
Colombia	1 March 2021
Croatia	1 March 2019
Cyprus	1 July 2019
DRC	1 January 2021
Ecuador	31 December 2017
Eritrea	1 February 2020
Ethiopia	1 June 2020
Iraq	1 February 2018
Mauritania	1 January 2021

State Party	Article 5 deadline
Niger	31 December 2020
Oman	1 February 2025
Peru	31 December 2024
Senegal	1 March 2021
Serbia	1 March 2019
Somalia	1 October 2026
South Sudan	9 July 2021
Sudan	1 April 2019
Tajikistan	1 April 2020
Thailand	1 November 2018
Turkey	1 March 2022
Ukraine	1 June 2016
UK	1 March 2019
Yemen	1 March 2020
Zimbabwe	1 January 2018

In 2017, Mozambique, reported that it discovered previously unknown mined areas and indicated that it will act in accordance with the provisions of Article 5, the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, and the commitment it made in its 2015 declaration of completion to “destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area as soon as possible, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.”

Assisting the victims

Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims and for mine awareness programs.

The Convention was the first multilateral arms control / disarmament convention to include provisions to assist the victims of the weapons in question. In doing so, the Convention established a new norm.

- 29 States Parties have indicated that they have significant numbers – hundreds or thousands – of landmine survivors for which they must provide care.
- States Parties have agreed that victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks, including those related to the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Convention has served as a catalyst for drawing attention to the plight of landmine survivors – and hence the challenges of all persons with disabilities – in some of the world’s poorest countries.

National implementation measures

Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control.

In the context of Article 9 obligations:

- 65 States Parties have reported that they have adopted legislation;
- 37 States Parties have reported that they consider existing laws to be sufficient;
- 60 States Parties have not yet reported having either adopted legislation or that they consider existing laws to be sufficient. Of these 60 States Parties, some have reported that they have drafted specific legislation but that it has not yet been adopted or that legislation is being considered but they have not provided updated information for a number of years.

Implementation support

The Implementation Support Unit

The implementation of the Convention is supported by a secretariat based in Geneva and called the Implementation Support Unit (ISU). The ISU is mandated to provide support to the Convention machinery as a whole and to provide advice and technical support to individual States Parties implementing the Convention. The ISU conducts its work in coordination with all relevant organisations which participate in the work of the Convention.

The ISU is funded on a voluntary basis by the States Parties to the Convention. As of 2 June 2017, the ISU Voluntary Trust Fund has so received contributions from 10 States Parties: **Australia, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Jordan, Philippines, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom.**

The Committees of the Convention

Since the Third Review Conference, four Committees work in support of the implementation of the Convention and provide assistance to States Parties in fulfilling their commitments.

I. The Committee on Article 5 Implementation works to intensify efforts particularly those outlined in the Maputo Action Plan, to ensure that Article 5 of the Convention (clearing mined areas) is fully implemented as soon as possible.

Committee Chair:  Zambia | 2016-2017

Members:  Chile | 2017-2018

 Costa Rica | 2016-2017

 Switzerland | 2017-2018

II. The Committee on Cooperative Compliance assists the States Parties in acting upon their commitment under Article 8.1 of the Convention to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance in a supportive and amicable manner.

Committee Chair:  Austria | 2016

Members:  Iraq | 2017-2018  United Kingdom | 2017-2018
 Peru | 2016-2017  Sweden | 2016-2017

III. The Committee on Victim Assistance supports the States Parties in their national efforts to strengthen and advance victim assistance, particularly in States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control.

Committee Chair  Colombia | 2016-2017

Members  Belgium | 2016-2017

 Croatia | 2017-2018

 Ecuador | 2017-2018

IV. The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance supports the States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, in line with their reaffirmation that ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines is a shared commitment.

Committee Chair  Netherlands | 2016-2017

Members  Algeria | 2017-2018

 Canada | 2017-2018

 Uganda | 2016-2017

The Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee coordinates the work flowing from and related to formal and informal meetings of the States Parties and also fulfils responsibilities related to the accountability of the Implementation Support Unit. The Coordinating Committee is composed of the Convention's President, the President-designate and the members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, the Committee on Victim Assistance, and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

The Coordinating Committee invites the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) as observers.