

SUMMARY

- The First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, ***A Mine Free World by 2025: The Last Stretch***, hosted by the Chilean Presidency, was held in Geneva on 2 March 2016.
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- The Conference which initiated with a high-level panel was opened by Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and chaired by H.E. Herald Muñoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile. Mr. Kofi Annan, Founder and Chairman of the Kofi Annan Foundation and former Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed participants as a Special Guest followed by addresses by H.E. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, H.E. María Ángela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mrs. Tammy Hall, Head of Danish Demining Group, and Mr. Firoz Alizada, Campaigns and Communications Manager at the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. High-level guests on the panel shared their vision on *The Last Stretch* towards implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention by 2025.
 - 69 delegations were present at the Pledging Conference including 52 States Parties, 2 States not party, 7 non-governmental organisations and 8 international organisations.
 - Four States Parties participated at a Ministerial level which included participation by H.E. Virasakdi Futrakul, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E. Masakazu Hamachi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Kamal Ismail, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sudan and H.E. George Martin, Deputy State Secretary of Switzerland.
 - Participants commended Chile, the Convention's Presidency, for taking this initiative and for providing the impetus needed for a successful implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2016.
 - Although early in the year, States pledged approximately EUR 70 million to support mine action globally in the coming years with other States indicating that they were in the process of finalizing their mine action strategies.
 - 20 States Parties made pledges to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit amounting to approximately CHF 640'000 and 3 States Parties pledged CHF 34'000 for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Sponsorship Programme.
 - A number of mine-affected States Parties highlighted the support provided by the government to their own national programmes to meet their Convention obligations.
 - Non-governmental organisations, including the HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) indicated the need for increased multi-annual contributions to the



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mine action programmes as well as the need to ensure that correct and most efficient methodologies for clearance are in place in affected States.

- Sri Lanka announced during the Pledging Conference that their cabinet had resolved to accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention which would make it the 163rd State Party to the Convention.

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

- H.E. Heraldo Muñoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, indicated that:

"The Convention has built a new paradigm of disarmament and highlighted the role of States in adopting people-centered and comprehensive measures aimed at the prevention and treatment of global threats to ensure the survival, livelihood and dignity of its citizens."

- Mr. Kofi Annan who 19 years ago, as UN Secretary-General oversaw the signing of the Convention in Ottawa, joined Canada on stage calling the "Ottawa Treaty one of the highlights of [his] career" and called upon the States Parties to not let up on their efforts now:

"It is often the last stretch that is most difficult, but the progress thus far attests to what can be achieved. [...] The vision of a world free of landmines by 2025 is one we all share. We can, and must make that happen. If we do, it will be a great triumph of human solidarity and an enduring testimony to how we can work together to eradicate a terrible injustice to some of the world's most vulnerable communities."

- H.E. María Ángela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, spoke of how mine action and mine clearance is an important part of its historic peace process and post conflict development:

"Two pilot areas have been chosen for mine clearance, one by the non-State armed group that planted the landmines and the other by the Government. We are currently receiving technical assistance from a mine clearance group, the Norwegian People's Aid, to clear landmines and improvised explosive devices."

- H.E. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, indicated that Canada gives the treaty an important place and called on a universal ban on landmines:

"There will never be a mine-free world if the States that have not joined the Convention retain the right to use these weapons."

- Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, highlighted the need for greater efforts to clear the last contaminated lands, the challenge to maintain adequate funding levels and strengthen political will:

"Investing in mine action means investing in sustainable development and in the future."

- Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, discussed the need to think differently about funding for victim assistance programmes in a hope that the "last stretch" in implementing the Convention can further "humanitarian innovation":



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"Together with the Belgian Government, we have launched a Humanitarian Impact Bond, aimed at attracting private social investors to contribute to victim assistance through physical rehabilitation centres. The experience under the implementation of the Convention makes this an ideal area for progress through private funding. We must learn to think and finance in the best interest of those we are working to help."

- Mrs. Tammy Hall, Head of the Danish Demining Group (DDG), talked about the commitment that will be required to meet the 2025 goal which includes not only using best practices and preventing the waste of resources, but sustained funding levels:

"Organisations like DDG have been forced to reduce their work force over the last three years due to reductions in funding. We have the political commitment, a trained work force and a scenario where areas cleared still have a considerable impact; but despite this, Afghanistan, and other major mine/ERW-affected countries may not be able to reach the 2025 deadline unless a more concerted effort is made for them to meet the target. With the right resources and commitment, meeting the deadline is possible."

- Mr. Firoz Ali Alizada, Campaigns and Communications Manager at the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), talked about the challenges of declining international mine action funding which according to figures provided by *The Monitor*, has decreased over 5% since 2013. Alizada also indicated that less contributions from certain mine-affected States to their own national mine action programmes will delay progress and urged all States Parties to:

"Stay committed to allocate enough financial resources for implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, in particular for mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, advocacy and monitoring."

STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PLEDGES



State	Pledges
Algeria	Indicated that since it joined the Convention it has contributed to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit on an annual basis and that Algeria is currently checking internally how it can contribute to the work of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit this year.
Argentina	Indicated that the work of the Convention and particularly the functioning of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit are of great importance to Argentina. Argentina also indicated that it appreciates the irreplaceable work that the ISU carries out and that a reinforced ISU could widen its activities and better serve the objectives of the Convention. In this sense, Argentina is considering a future financial contribution to the ISU.
Australia	Indicated that it is in the process of finalizing a multi-year agreement with the GICHD which would include funding to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit in the range of AUD 120,000 a year as well as funding to the Sponsorship Programme in the range of AUD 30,000 a year.
Austria	Recalled that since its earliest days, Austria has been a staunch supporter of a ban of anti-personnel mines. Austria announced that it would contribute USD 10'000 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and will continue to contribute to the Convention's Sponsorship Programme. Austria also highlighted that it will continue contributing to cooperation projects as well as to the implementation of the Convention in African, Asian and European countries.
Belgium	Indicated that it has contributed EUR 330,000 to the financial buffer of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Belgium indicated that although it is not in a position to announce a pledge with formal amounts for 2016, it was considering a number of projects and ensured that it would remain a committed partner in the combat against landmines.
Cambodia	Indicated that it will continue to finance the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit for the period of the ISU's 2016-2019 Work Plan.

State	Pledges
	Cambodia indicated that it is committed to supporting its national programme and will incorporate its commitment and budget arrangement in its new National Mine Action Strategy 2017-2025.
Canada	Highlighted that if States are to reach their common goal of a world free of landmines by 2025, States currently outside the Treaty need to be brought inside. Canada indicated that all States Parties must take responsibility for meeting their own treaty commitments and the necessary means need to be provided to ensure that the work is coordinated. Canada emphasized the key role of the ISU in this regard. Canada pledged CAD 130,000 for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit.
Chile	Recalled its commitment to international peace and security and its commitment to the progress of International Humanitarian Law. Chile indicated that it is available to provide technical demining assistance through the experience it has gained in the last years working in countries in Central America, on the border with Peru and Ecuador and in Colombia. Chile indicated that it can share this knowledge through bilateral and triangular cooperation projects in Africa and in Southeast Asia, as well as in other regions that require support.
Colombia	Indicated that it has prioritised 199 municipalities of the country for mine action interventions once the peace agreement has been signed. In this manner, by 2019, Colombia will be able to have intervened in 60% of the national territory. This effort will involve, in addition to working with the national authorities, the willingness expressed by illegal armed actors to accompany and support mine clearance. Colombia indicated that a vision of a world free of anti-personnel mines by 2025 is the vision in which Colombia works committing financial and human resources.
Czech Republic	Recalled its commitment to the goals and the implementation of the Convention. Indicated that since the inception of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit the Czech Republic has supported its work and has allocated more than one million CZK as voluntary contribution. The Czech Republic pledged a contribution of CHF 5,500 for 2016.
Ecuador	Indicated that it will continue implementing the binational demining programme with Peru and expects to declare its territory free of anti-personnel mines in 2017. Highlighted that Ecuador's largest contribution to the implementation of the Convention is the contribution to its national demining programme which will amount to USD 21 million for the period 2013-2017. Ecuador contributed to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit in 2014 and 2015 and expects to make a similar contribution for 2016.
Estonia	Indicated that since 2006 it has regularly supported and gradually increased its contribution to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Estonia pledged EUR 5,000 for 2016 split between the ISU Work Plan and the financial security buffer.
El Salvador	Indicated that it is working on providing care for persons with disabilities including landmine survivors. The El Salvador Fund for the Protection of the Wounded and the Disabled as a Result of Armed Conflict received around USD 9 million in 2015 for compensation to landmine victims. Stressed the importance of Article 6 of the Convention which emphasises the need to continue supporting efforts to provide comprehensive care to landmine victims by countries which have completed

State	Pledges
	demining.
Finland	Pledged EUR 12 million to humanitarian mine action for the years 2016-2020 for selected countries and organisations. Finland indicated that its new humanitarian mine policy approach is under preparation and will be released in the spring of 2016 and that it will be based on a wider approach to support international security, stability and development. Finland highlighted the importance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention as a tool of the global disarmament machinery which has significantly contributed to making the world a safer place. Finland pledged a contribution of EUR 10,000 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit.
France	Indicated that it will continue efforts to fund programmes, including training programmes in the CPADD in Benin and demining programmes in Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mali, Iraq and Syria. France indicated that due to internal budgetary procedures France was not in a position to announce its contribution to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit.
Germany	Pledged EUR 40,000 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and indicated that it would be providing EUR 500,000 for stockpile destruction in Ukraine. In addition, Germany indicated that it will be providing around EUR 15 million in assistance for mine clearance, victim assistance and risk awareness activities in 2016 with priority given to conflicts and crisis that are closely related to humanitarian needs and challenges.
Ireland	Pledged EUR 25,000 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Ireland indicated that it has a strong history of commitment to humanitarian demining which it includes in its ongoing development partnerships, including a recent commitment to mine action of over EUR 4 million in Afghanistan, Somaliland and Zimbabwe.
Italy	Announced that in January 2016, the new Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development has become operational within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that its main responsibility will be to implement mine action projects, including a substantial increase of Italian Official Development Aid. Italy indicated that it supported the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit since its inception and reaffirmed its intention to contribute to the ISU in 2016 with an amount at least equal to its contribution in 2015 as well as funding international assistance projects.
Japan	Highlighted the need for the international community to intensify overall efforts to achieve a mine-free world, in particular through the full implementation of the Convention. Japan pledged CHF 79'700 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit in 2016 and urged as many States Parties as possible to join the endeavour to pledge financial resources to the Implementation Support Unit. Japan announced that it has donated approximately USD 622 million since 1998 to 50 countries and regions in order to address various problems caused by anti-personnel mines and with a view to ensuring human security.
Jordan	Stressed the importance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit as the core instrument in implementing the Convention and achieving a mine-free world by 2025. Jordan indicated that it has

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State	Pledges
	contributed to the ISU in the past few years and that it will maintain its symbolic contribution to the ISU in 2016. Jordan urged all States Parties to do their utmost to support the ISU both financially and politically.
Luxembourg	Reaffirmed its support to the fight against landmines and other explosive remnants of war and to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Luxembourg highlighted the role of the Unit in supporting and facilitating multilateral efforts to pursue the objectives of the Convention. Indicated that it has pledged EUR 500,000 to UNMAS. Luxembourg reaffirmed its active involvement in the field of cooperation and victim assistance with around EUR 1.15 million contributed to demining and clearance programmes in the field.
Mexico	Reaffirmed its commitment to the Convention and its implementation. Although not able to announce a pledge, indicated that it will continue efforts to keep the level of financial support provided so far to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit.
Mozambique	Indicated that Mozambique will remain engaged in the Convention as it seeks to implement other provisions such as victim assistance. Pledged CHF 5,000 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit.
Netherlands	Pledged EUR 50,000 per year for the next five years for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Underlined that the Netherlands, as the fifth largest donor in humanitarian demining, remains fully committed to the common 2025 goal and will continue with multi-year commitments. The Netherlands indicated that EUR 45 million have been earmarked over the next four years for their humanitarian action and cluster munition programme.
New Zealand	Pledged NZ\$ 5'000 for the work of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit in 2016, announcing that its commitment to make further contributions of the same amount in 2017 and 2018. New Zealand recalled the call made at the 14 th Meeting of the States Parties for a dialogue to explore alternative models of financing the Implementation Support and help produce a more sustainable solution for the long term.
Peru	Pledged CHF 14,782 for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and will make the necessary efforts so that similar contributions can be provided in the future. Indicated that south-south cooperation has shown Peruvians and Ecuadorians that joining forces allowed them to save resources. Peru highlighted that the work of eradication of anti-personnel mines has also been an effective measure to promote confidence between Peru and Ecuador, which could be considered as a model of cooperation to be replicated among other States Parties. Committed to make available its experience in this field to those interested.
Poland	Expressed its commitment to the Maputo+15 Declaration to achieve the goal of clearing all landmines by 2025. Indicated that it has contributed, long before becoming a State Party, to ERW and mine clearance projects. Poland contributed EUR 10,000 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit in 2016 and will keep this commitment in the future.
Spain	Indicated that Spain's next contribution will be in Colombia within the framework of the Global Demining Initiative which the United States and Norway are driving in this country and which will result in various training courses for demining with the aim to free Colombia, within the next five years, of this scourge. Spain further indicated

State	Pledges
	that, dependent on the availability of funds, it will make a future contribution to the ISU, reiterating its appreciation for all the efforts being carried out for the benefit of our shared goals.
Sudan	Confirmed its commitment to the Convention and to achieving the goal of the elimination of mines and ERW. Sudan adopted a free from landmine policy and is ready to share its experience in this field particularly with countries in its region. Indicated that it contributes to its national demining programme and will allocate USD 2 million in 2016 despite a difficult economic situation.
Sweden	Indicated that while unable to make a formal commitment during the Pledging Conference, expressed its firm intention to continue voluntary contributions to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Sweden hoped to be able to take a decision later in 2016 on the allocation of a sum up to SEK 500,000 for the Implementation Support Unit. Sweden expressed its commitment to the principles of the Convention, implementing States' own obligations as well as providing substantial practical support to other States Parties that do likewise, and this until a mine-free world is achieved.
Switzerland	Announced a global contribution of CHF 80,000 for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and the financial security buffer. Switzerland underlined its intention to continue contributing similar amounts until the next Review Conference. Switzerland indicated that it is currently reviewing its national mine action strategy. Switzerland will focus on universalization of the Convention and compliance and wishes mine action to be part of peace processes and sustainable development. Switzerland will support local capacity building with regards to humanitarian demining.
Thailand	Pledged CHF 40,000 for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit over four years corresponding to the Unit's four year work plan. Indicated that Thailand remains firmly committed to its task to clear all remaining landmines from its soil and stressed the importance of sharing their experience and good practices with other mine-affected States and in this regard indicated that the Thailand Mine Action Centre has been organising mine action training courses for delegations from neighbouring countries for the last 3 years. Will continue this tradition of cooperation and assistance in mine action.
Turkey	Pledged USD 4,000 for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and USD 4,000 to the Convention Sponsorship Programme. Turkey took the opportunity to reiterate its determination to fulfil its commitments emanating from the Convention.
United Kingdom	Confirmed its donation of £25,000 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit for its 2016 budget. The United Kingdom expressed its strong support to the Convention and its goals.
Zambia	Encouraged ownership of the Convention and the need to bring on board as many States as possible to support the work of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Zambia pledged US\$ 5,000 over a period of 5 years as a demonstration of seriousness it attaches to the Convention.

Organisation	Pledges
DDG	Indicated three main things that we need to move forward to meet 2025: political will, commitment to using best practices to prevent wasting resources and sufficient available resources dedicated to the 2025 goal. DDG indicated that we will need to have dedicated mine clearance funding that aims to clear the anti-personnel mines of past conflicts, as well as address explosive remnants from current conflicts and that to be as effective as possible, this support needs to be multi-year and to the greatest extent possible coordinated so we are addressing any and all gaps.
GICHD	Indicated that it will continue to assist States Parties in their efforts to achieve the Maputo commitment of a mine-free world by 2025. Will continue to help affected States Parties develop their capacities to obtain clarity on the extent of contamination, draft strategies that are realistic, measurable and sustainable, release land effectively, and use the most appropriate clearance methods and tools. Further indicated that it will continue to support the implementation machinery of the Convention.
ICBL	Urged States Parties and supporters to recommit to the goal of bringing landmine casualties to zero and ridding the world of landmines through a joint effort by doing at the following between now and 2025: stay committed to allocate enough financial resources for implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, in particular for mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, advocacy and monitoring; make sure the resources are spent in efficient, effective, accountable, and transparent manner at all stages and in all areas of the mine action programmes, and; protect and promote the Mine Ban Treaty and the norms it has established by strong political supports at all times and at all levels including at national, regional and international levels.
Halo Trust	There is much that we have to be proud of from this amazing Treaty but we need to acknowledge the effort that will be required for us to reach 2025. If we are serious about 2025 we need to find more financing, otherwise we will not achieve our target and we will fail in our final stretch.
MAG	Highlighted that the full potential of such pledges are realised when combined with political support at a national level, when international assistance works together to support outworking of best practice and when we as a sector are working in a spirit of transparent partnership, under the principle of national ownership. Stressed that working collectively and transparently to address these challenges will enable us to maximise the impact of the generous pledges that have been made today, and give us the best possible opportunity to realise the commitment of the Maputo declaration. Indicated that it stands ready to assist in walking the last stretch.
NPA	Stressed that it is not simply a matter of securing funding for the last stretch, but also of ensuring that funding is targeted and used efficiently. It is essential that the commitment of funding for mine action is coupled with the guiding principles of efficiency and effectiveness, in order to make the possibility of a mine-free world by 2025 a reality. Indicated that it stands ready to assist in completing Article 5 implementation, as both a clearance operator, and a partner in the collective efforts of the mine action community.
UNMAS	As coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system, reiterated its willingness to further assist affected States. Indicated that it continues to strongly advocate for the universalisation of the Convention and compliance with its legal provisions. Resources permitting, it indicated that it will continue to listen to, train, advise and equip States Parties with the expertise and means needed to realise the shared vision of a world free of landmines.



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Pledges for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit in 2016

State	CHF amount	Original currency amount	Original currency
Australia		120,000	AUD
Austria		10,000	USD
Canada		130,000	CAD
Czech Republic	5,500		CHF
Estonia		5,000	EUR
Finland		10,000	EUR
Germany		40,000	EUR
Ireland		25,000	EUR
Japan	79,700		CHF
Mozambique	5,000		CHF
Netherlands		50,000	EUR
New Zealand		5,000	NZD
Peru	14,782		CHF
Poland		10,000	EUR
Sweden		500,000	SEK
Switzerland	80,000		CHF
Thailand	10,000		CHF
Turkey		4,000	USD
United Kingdom		25,000	GBP
Zambia		1,000	USD

Pledges for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Sponsorship Programme

State	CHF amount	Original currency amount	Original currency
Australia		30,000	AUD
Austria		See narrative table	
Turkey		4,000	USD

Pledges for the financial security buffer of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

State	CHF amount	Original currency amount	Original currency
Belgium		330,000	EUR
Estonia		See narrative table	EUR
Switzerland		See narrative table	CHF



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ANNEX I: CONCEPT NOTE

**First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention:
A Mine Free World by 2025: «THE LAST STRETCH»
2 March 2016, Geneva**

Background

In the *Maputo +15 Declaration* States Parties affirmed the “ambition to ensure that there are no new mine victims in areas under our jurisdiction or control, to see that survivors participate in their societies on an equal basis to others, and to intensify our efforts to complete our respective time-bound obligations with the urgency that the completion work requires”. A declaration was made to “**meet these goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025**”.

On the eve of the Convention’s seventeenth year after entry into force, the Convention has made great strides in addressing the scourge of anti-personnel mines moving towards putting an “end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mine”. We have saved thousands of lives, improved the lives of millions and more than 48 million mines have been destroyed. Much remains to be done but the end is in sight. **We are now in The Last Stretch towards a mine-free world!**

Purpose

The First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, 2 March 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Palais de Nations, Room XXV, 15:00 – 18:00.**

The purpose of the Pledging Conference is to renew and strengthen commitment to the principles of the AP Mine Ban Convention and to commit resources for implementation.

The Pledging Conference seeks specifically to encourage States Parties to the Convention to pledge the necessary financial resources to the functioning of its Implementation Support Unit in conformity with the four-year Work Plan and Budget adopted in 2015, including support for the Convention’s Sponsorship Programme. It also provides the opportunity for traditional and non-traditional donors to pledge their support to Mine Action at an international level as well as their support to specific country operations through bilateral and multilateral arrangements, including through partnerships for completion with States Parties which are currently implementing key provisions of the Convention. Lastly, mine-affected States Parties are encouraged to announce their own national commitment and budget arrangements to their national Mine Action programmes.



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The High-level Segment and the Pledging Conference

To walk **The Last Stretch** and arrive at a mine-free world by 2025 will require commitment on the part of all: States Parties to the Convention, countries engaged in mine action, civil society organisations and academics alike.

A High-level segment (HLS) of global leaders will launch the Pledging Conference to project their vision on “What does it take to get to a mine-free world by 2025?”. This exchange will be followed by announcements on pledges and statements of commitment by participating States Parties, donors and others (2-3 minutes)

Format

The Conference will be opened by Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva with the High-level segment panel running in the first hour, followed by statements by State Parties. The High-level segment will be chaired by H.E. Heraldo Muñoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile. Mr. Kofi Annan, Founder and Chairman of the Kofi Annan Foundation and former Secretary-General of the United Nations will address the HLS as Special Guest.

H.E. Heraldo Muñoz will be accompanied on the HLS panel by H.E. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, H.E. María Ángela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mrs. Tammy Hall, Head of Danish Demining Group, and Mr. Firoz Alizada, Campaigns and Communications Manager at International Campaign to Ban Landmines, who will provide their vision on **The Last Stretch**.

States representatives will then be invited to announce pledges and commitments (maximum 2-3 minutes each).

The Pledging Conference will take place in room XXV of the Palais des Nations, from 15:00 to 18:00.

A Mine-Free World by 2025: “The Last Stretch”



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ANNEX II: CONVENTION STATUS

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Facts and figures

(As of 2 March 2016)

What is the Anti-Personnel (AP) 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 AP Mine Ban Convention 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.
- 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 clear mined areas and to assist the victims and expressed their aspiration to meet their goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025.
- In 2016, the Convention is presided over by Chile. Chile has announced its intention to revitalize the commitment of all stakeholders, universalize the Convention's application and strengthen the Convention's programme of work.

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 (AP) mines" through the pursuit of four core aims:
 - Universal acceptance of a ban on AP mines
 - Destruction of stockpiled AP mines
 - Clearance of mined areas
 - Assistance to mine victims



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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 AP mines
- The vast majority of States that are or have been affected by AP 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

How much progress has been achieved since 1999?

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, 85 have completed their stockpile destruction programmes, with over 48 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed. Work continues to do the same for Belarus, Greece, Poland, Oman and Ukraine.

Clearing all areas containing anti-personnel mines:

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 extended deadlines.

- Of the 60 States Parties that have reported mined areas, 29 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.
- 31 States Parties are still in the process of fulfilling their mine clearance obligations and it will take some of them several more years to do so.

Assisting the victims:

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.



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- 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.

Implementation support:

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.