

“A Shared Commitment for a Mine-Free World”: The 2009 Cartagena Declaration

We, the high representatives of the States Parties to the Convention banning anti-personnel mines, gathered here at the Cartagena Summit, reaffirm our commitment to ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and to achieving a world free of mines. We are convinced that we will reach this goal in our lifetime.

Inspired by our collective achievements, we will strengthen our efforts to overcome the remaining challenges.

A decade of saving lives

The number of deaths and injuries caused by anti-personnel mines has fallen considerably since the Convention entered into force in 1999.

Survivors are receiving better care and their human rights have been enhanced. We are inspired by the survivors who despite their trauma and injuries participate actively in their communities and in the work of the Convention.

Countless lives and limbs have been saved through the destruction of more than 42 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the clearance of vast mined areas. We are proud of this humanitarian accomplishment, and of our contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Our aim is universal adherence to the Convention. One-hundred-fifty-six States have already joined the Convention and will never again use anti-personnel mines and nearly all other States observe the global norm it has established. Endeavours to convince other actors not to use anti-personnel mines are bearing fruit.

We are proud that the Convention has strengthened international humanitarian law and inspired the development of other instruments for the protection of civilians.

These achievements are the result of the partnership we have built between affected and other States, international organisations and civil society.

People remain at risk

Despite great efforts and much progress, we have still not been able to fulfil all the promises we as States Parties to the Convention have made to mine victims and to people living with the daily threat caused by anti-personnel mines.

Thousands of women, girls, boys and men are maimed or killed by anti-personnel mines every year. People living in affected areas remain at risk and the development of their communities is hindered by the presence of anti-personnel mines.

A small number of States not parties to the Convention and several armed non-state actors still use anti-personnel mines, causing new humanitarian challenges and continued suffering.

As long as people remain at risk, we are compelled to do more to achieve our goal.

A mine free world is possible

We continue to be guided by the humanitarian imperative that led to the Convention.

We will ensure the full and effective participation and inclusion of mine victims in the social, cultural, economic and political life of their communities. Our victim assistance efforts will meet the highest international standards in order to fulfil the rights and fundamental freedoms of survivors and other persons with disabilities.

We will ensure that all efforts to implement the Convention will involve young and old, women and men, girls and boys, and reflect their views. The dignity and well-being of survivors, their families and communities remain at the core of our efforts.

We reaffirm our aim of zero new victims through clearing all mined areas and destroying all anti-personnel mines still in stock as soon as possible. We condemn the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including armed non-state actors.

We call on all States not yet party to the Convention to join the vast majority of States in our struggle against this weapon.

We will make use of synergies with other instruments of international humanitarian and human rights law.

We will continue and enhance our cooperation with international organisations and civil society to improve implementation of the Convention.

We will commit the necessary national and international resources and work together to pursue our common goal.

We appeal to the world to join us in our shared commitment for a mine-free world.