



**Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on
their Destruction**

25-29 November 2024

Siem Reap, Cambodia

General Statement by Ireland

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

President,

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Government of Cambodia for hosting this Review Conference, for welcoming us to Siem Reap, and for the effective and inclusive management of this process. Your leadership and commitment ahead of this Review Conference inspired us all to strive for an ambitious outcome, which can bring us closer to our shared goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Ireland is particularly encouraged by Cambodia's efforts to promote universalisation, implementation of Article 5 - importantly through the example of your own actions - and victim assistance, all of which strengthen the Convention.

President,

This Fifth Review Conference comes at a critical juncture. We meet against the backdrop of increasing global conflict, and strain on the rules and principles of the multilateral system and on international humanitarian law. We must redouble our efforts and re-affirm our commitments towards upholding and promoting the norm established against this inhumane weapon. We condemn the use of anti-personnel landmines, in any circumstance and by any actor. We call on all actors to cease the use of these indiscriminate weapons.

Ireland welcomes the progress made on universalisation, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, and transparency and implementation support since the Fourth Review Conference. However, we are gravely concerned by the continued rise in the number of casualties resulting from the increased use of anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature, as well as landmine contamination from the past. In that context, continued action towards universalisation and full implementation of the Convention is more important than ever – as is the vision of a world free of anti-personnel land mines.

We welcome the Political Declaration for this Review Conference and the efforts of the Presidency in producing a strong commitment and intention for States Parties to act.

We also welcome the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan, and express support for its cross-cutting actions designed to intensify States' efforts to complete time-bound obligations and achieve the vision of a world free of landmines as soon as possible.

We believe that the Political Declaration and Action Plan can bring us closer to our shared goal.

President,

Ireland has consistently emphasised the clear links between humanitarian de-mining and sustainable development, opening up access to land for economic development, to services, education and employment opportunities. Since 2006, we have provided more than €65 million in funding for humanitarian mine action.

In addition to our direct mine-action work, Ireland is a consistent supporter of the APMBC Implementation Support Unit (ISU). The ISU plays a vital role supporting the implementation and universalisation of the Convention. We underline the importance of integrating gender and diversity perspectives, as well as gender balanced participation, in all aspects of mine action. We further welcome the tangible contribution by civil society to advance the aims of the Convention.

President,

Universalisation remains a significant challenge. Ireland continues to urge non-party States to adhere to the Convention, and immediately cease the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines pending membership. We note and welcome the commitment of certain non-party States in this regard.

While we hold the Russian Federation wholly responsible for its illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, and we are fully supportive of Ukraine's right to self-defence, we are deeply troubled by the announced, pending transfer by the United States of anti-personnel mines to Ukraine. We strongly urge the United States and Ukraine to reconsider the transfer and for Ukraine not to pursue any potential use of these weapons and, in doing so, to both ensure it safeguards and respects its existing obligations under the Convention.

President,

Ireland reaffirms the importance of the obligations stemming from Article 5 of the Convention. We welcome the measurable progress in the implementation of Article 5 since the last Review Conference, but recognise that implementation challenges remain for many States. New, large-scale contamination is of significant concern, including in Ukraine as a result of Russia's illegal and unjustified war of aggression. Ireland remains committed working with others on compliance with the Convention, including through the establishment of a Voluntary Trust Fund. We believe this could be a way of making significant progress, and hope to see it advanced in the short term.

President,

Clearing landmines not only prevents further human casualties, but frees entire communities from fear, paving the way for reconstruction, agricultural production, business opportunities, and sustainable development. Realising this potential is only possible with planning and investment. It is particularly welcome that the Action Plan first deals with the integration of mine action in national development and humanitarian response plans, and the strengthening of partnerships with the development and humanitarian sectors.

A major achievement of this Convention is its commitment to victims and survivors. Those affected by landmines are not only the immediate victims, but also their families and communities, and all those who live in fear of unexploded landmines. Nationally-led efforts to provide victim assistance should have full and effective participation of survivors and affected communities. Such efforts should take into account not only the gendered impacts arising from the use of anti-personnel mines, but also women's agency as a powerful force for change. While we are encouraged by the reported progress on victim assistance since the Fourth Review Conference, the number of new victims has increased in recent years. Implementation of the commitments in the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan will help to ensure a more effective, inclusive and sustainable approach to victim assistance.

President,

We believe that norms shape action. Ireland will continue our determined efforts to fulfil the aims of the Convention, including by sending a powerful global message against the use of these weapons, and supporting efforts to deal with their consequences. The renewed

commitments of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action plan must bring us closer to achieving a world free from anti-personnel landmines.

Thank you.