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**Political message
for the Fifth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction
25 November 2024, per video message**

Dear participants,

It's been now 25 years after the initiative to ban the entire weapons category of anti-personnel mines came into life with the Ottawa Convention. Since then, thanks to this ban, countless civilian lives have been spared, many communities have been rebuilt.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is a success story of multilateral diplomacy. It is a key humanitarian disarmament instrument.

The Convention has brought impressive results across the globe regarding the destruction of stockpiles anti-personnel mines, clearance of mine-contaminated land, and assistance to mine victims.

Cambodia has taken a leadership role on mine-action. From having been one of the most heavily mine-affected countries in the world, Cambodia has risen to lead global efforts towards a mine-free world, and now shares its experience with other countries, including Ukraine.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention embodies the values that the EU stands for: multilateralism, the international rules-based order, and the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law.

The European Union and its Member States share a long standing and strong political commitment for a universal ban on anti-personnel mines. As the world's second biggest donor, we have contributed over 800 million euros to humanitarian mine action over the past six years.

Around the world, the human cost of anti-personnel mines remains high. In Ukraine, for instance, Russia's use of anti-personnel mines and improvised anti-personnel mines in its illegal war of aggression has made Ukraine the most mine-contaminated country in the world. But we witness new contaminations also in other countries, including Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, as well as in the Sahel.

So we must redouble our efforts to advance the goals embodied in the Ottawa Convention. We have to support its universalisation to all countries that are not yet members. The Review Conference in Siem Reap gives us an opportunity to collectively renew our commitment, strengthen our resolve, and advance further towards a world free of anti-personnel landmines. That is such an important endeavour.

I wish you a successful Review Conference.