



**5<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the  
Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Siem Reap, 26 November 2024**

Statement  
of the  
**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

**Agenda item 8a – Universalisation of the Convention and its norms**

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Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies, and gentlemen,

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its member National Societies around the world have been dedicated to ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and advocating for a total ban on these devastating weapons since 1995, even before the Convention was adopted in 1997.

Through the efforts of National Societies in affected communities we strive to assist the victims of these indiscriminate weapons and support their reintegration into society. We are grateful for the recognition of the role of National Societies and the Federation under article 6 of the Convention.

This landmark Convention has helped establish a global norm against anti-personnel landmines, stigmatizing their use by anyone and prohibiting these weapons under international humanitarian law. This is a remarkable achievement that, when our engagement began, was considered unrealistic and unachievable. Yet we are proud to stand here today with the 164 States Parties to this extraordinary Convention which has also influenced the behavior of many non-party States.

However, international norms must be constantly reinforced, promoted and defended, particularly in the current international climate where they are too often ignored or called into question. It is essential that this Review Conference commits States Parties to vigorous action in this field over the next five years.

Looking forward, we must recognize that the ambitions of the 2019 Oslo Action Plan on universalization have not been fully achieved. No new States have adhered to the Convention since 2017 despite a commitment of States Parties to “spare no effort to universalize” the Convention. The use of “improvised” anti-personnel mines by non-state actors has nearly

doubled the average annual number of landmine casualties over the past ten years compared to its low in 2013, according to the Landmine Monitor.

Collective actions taken so far have not reduced or ended the use of anti-personnel landmines by several States not party. Some States may even be tempted to cite current geopolitical tensions as a reason to reconsider their commitment to this Convention, as has already occurred under the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We urge this Review Conference and individual States Parties to significantly increase efforts to address these threats to the Convention's norms over the coming five years. This is necessary both to prevent future casualties and to maintain this Convention's role as the most successful IHL treaty on arms in recent decades. Continuing the pattern of the past five years is not enough.

Although there are several welcome commitments in the draft Declaration and Action Plan on universalization, we would like to see the Review Conference take additional steps. These include:

- Adopting clear and consistent language throughout the outcome documents, based on current Action point 2 which condemns "the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor, anywhere, under any circumstances". Other formulations such as that in Action point 12, which speaks of "violations of norms", are weaker and can confuse the message.
- Assigning clear responsibility within the Convention's structures for pro-active work to mobilize States in response to ongoing use of AP mines by non-party States and non-State groups, and to engage with any party that may be tempted to withdraw from the Convention. This responsibility could, for example, be assigned to the universalization support group under the guidance of the Presidency.
- Deciding to make greater use of the Convention's high-level emissaries to intervene at high political levels to support adherence by non-party States.

And finally, we call on all States Parties to increase the political commitment and resources devoted to the Convention over the next five years. Increased outreach to promote and defend this Convention's norms will require time, coordination, resources, and inspired strategies. Yet it is a wise investment in the defense of international humanitarian law and the prevention of new victims. Indeed, it is the only way to get to the Mine Free World that this Siem Reap-Angkor Summit aims to achieve.

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