

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and  
Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

**Fifth Review Conference, Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024**

**Clearance**

**Statement by Austria**

Mr. President,

Austria aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union.

In Maputo we set ourselves the goal of a mine-free world by 2025. While we have to recognize at this Fifth Review Conference that we are not on track to fully achieve a mine free world by 2025, this is still no arbitrary date. It demonstrates our collective determination to get the job done with urgency and in a time-bound manner, and Austria fully reiterates its commitment hereto.

We commend those affected States that have achieved significant and measurable progress on their clearance obligations through the review period. We clearly see the need for more to be done that all States Parties with obligations will progress within their timelines, and where needed, submit timely and complete extension requests.

We deem it important that States Parties with clearance obligations demonstrate full ownership and political will, which is the best way also to attract sustainable international cooperation and partnerships. In our view, these are crucial.

The challenge posed by improvised anti-personnel mines as well as the other explosive ordnance threats adds to the number of challenges States Parties with Art. 5 obligations are facing. We underline the benefits of collaboration on lessons learned and best practices in this regard.

Mr. President,

Austria fully acknowledges that adequate, both national and international, resources are required to complete clearance obligations by affected States Parties. We therefore encourage additional innovative approaches that could

complement the decisions prepared by this Conference to strengthen implementation of Article V, most notably the proposal to nominate a High-Level Envoy and to establish an informal supporting committee on Article 5 to ensure that we make use of all expertise available to foster cooperative progress on Art 5 obligations.

Finally, we commend all the individuals who work and are engaged in mine action including clearance operations, many of them carrying out the most challenging tasks under very difficult conditions in order to end the legacy of decades of conflict and to contribute to allowing their communities to finally recover. They build on the promise of the Convention and we owe it to them to achieve a mine free world and end the suffering of survivors and affected communities for all times.

Thank you