

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Fifth Review Conference
Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024
Statement on behalf of Hungary

Mr. President,

Hungary is honored to take part in this significant gathering and extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The choice of Siem Reap, a city emblematic of resilience and recovery, serves as a powerful reminder of the urgency of our collective mission.

As a firm supporter of the Convention, Hungary reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the global eradication of anti-personnel mines. These weapons indiscriminately target civilians, hinder socio-economic development, and leave lasting scars on communities long after conflicts have ended. We stand with all affected nations in the pursuit of a mine-free world.

Hungary has actively contributed to the goals of the Convention in several ways. We ratified the Convention in 1998, and successfully destroyed our stockpiles of anti-personnel mines. Since then, Hungary has consistently supported international mine action efforts through financial and technical contributions.

Thus, Hungary considers international assistance as a vital part of the Convention. Since the start of the war, under international assistance Hungary has been providing multi-faceted non-lethal assistance to Ukraine especially in the field of humanitarian demining. We announced our latest support on September 6, 2024, at the Ukraine Defense Contact Group (UDCG) ministerial meeting in Ramstein. This includes two specialized courses on humanitarian demining within the framework of the Demining Coalition. The first course, on Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance Agent (EORA) training, will prepare soldiers to detect and

identify explosive devices, ensuring site security and freedom of maneuver during operations. The second course, a Basic Site Exploitation Course (B-SEC), will teach participants how to obtain intelligence and preserve evidence at the site of an explosion.

In this regard I have to mention the role of the Hungarian Defence Forces. The 1st Engineer and Riverine Guard Regiment is a highly capable and well-trained special unit responsible for the disposal of ammunition and explosive remnants of war, including anti-personnel mines.

Mr. President,

We commend the tremendous progress achieved since the adoption of the Convention as to the clearance of vast areas of contaminated land. However, challenges still remain. The recent use of landmines in some conflicts and the vast number of victims still in need of support remind us of the work ahead. Thus, Hungary calls for enhanced international cooperation and assistance to ensure the fulfillment of the Convention's goals.

Mr. President,

As I don't intend to take the floor again, please let me make a reference to the draft documents we are about to adopt. As we look to the future, Hungary, as others, reaffirms its dedication to the principles and objectives of the Convention by supporting the documents – and this includes gender equality. As such, Hungary recognizes and promotes equality between women and men in accordance with the Fundamental Law of Hungary, the primary law, principles and values of the European Union, as well as the commitments and principles stemming from international law. In line with these and its national legislation, Hungary interprets the concept of “gender” as reference to “sex” and the concept of “gender equality” as reference to the “equality between men and women”.

As I said, Mr. President, Hungary reaffirms its dedication to the principles and objectives of the Convention. Together, let us strive for a world free of anti-personnel mines, where communities can thrive without fear, and where the tragedies of the past do not hinder the promise of the future.

Thank you.