

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

29 November 2024

Original: English

Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Review of the operation and status of the Convention

Draft Siem Reap-Angkor Declaration on a Mine-Free World 2024. A Renewed Commitment for a Safer Future

Submitted by the President of the Fifth Review Conference

1. In the heart of Siem Reap, Cambodia, we, the 164 States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, reaffirm our unwavering commitment to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, that kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, impede humanitarian access, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences years after emplacement. In order to reduce the humanitarian impact and harm, we therefore call on all actors to promote the norms that have underpinned our work these past three decades.
2. We stand on a foundation of tremendous progress since the Convention's inception and thank all stakeholders for their unwavering commitment. We recognise the vital role played by courageous demining personnel engaged in demining operations, who undertake their critical work in often dangerous and difficult environments to release land and restore the security of affected communities.
3. We recall that each State Party has undertaken under Article 1 of the Convention never to use, develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain, or transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, anti-personnel mines under any circumstances.
4. We remain profoundly alarmed by the continued presence and use of anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature, in new and protracted armed conflicts. We recognise the persistent challenges that lie ahead and are concerned by any development that would increase potential for use of anti-personnel mines, including stockpiling, production, development, transfer and acquisition. The increasing number of casualties caused by anti-personnel mines serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing relevance and urgency of our mission. Driven by the vision of a mine-free world, we condemn the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor, urgently call on all States and parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law, and on all States Parties to comply with the obligations of the Convention.
5. We also pledge to uphold, promote and strengthen the norms established by the Convention and remain determined to put an end to the suffering and casualties by anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature.
6. While recognising that the Convention has achieved near-universal adherence with 164 States Parties, our work is far from complete. We recognise the critical role of universal adherence to the Convention in achieving a mine-free world and commit to intensifying our

coordinated diplomatic outreach efforts to achieve this goal. We call upon all States not party to immediately join the Convention.

7. We recognise the importance of preventing new casualties, including in areas of difficult access where opportunities for survey and clearance activities are limited. In this regard, we commit to delivering effective, context-specific mine risk education and other risk reduction measures to all groups at risk to provide them with the tools to protect themselves until the threat of anti-personnel mines can be addressed.

8. Recalling that the rights and needs of survivors, their families, and communities are at the core of our efforts, we commit to providing comprehensive support through a human rights-based approach, strengthening national coordination mechanisms, and strengthening our cooperation and assistance efforts. Our victim assistance programmes will be inclusive, non-discriminatory, and integrated into broader national policies related to health, disability, education, employment, and development. We are committed to ensuring the full, equal, and effective participation of mine survivors and victims in society based on respect for human rights, gender equality, diverse needs, and non-discrimination.

9. We commit to intensify our implementation efforts to meet our outstanding obligations, including by increasing the speed and efficiency of survey and clearance and ensuring the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Our resolve is steadfast: we will ensure the full and timely implementation of the Convention's provisions, leaving no room for complacency. We further reaffirm our commitment to robust compliance and accountability.

10. We recognise that the success of the Convention relies on strong national ownership and international cooperation and assistance, as well as the unique partnership between affected States Parties, States Parties in a position to provide assistance, and international, regional, and local organisations, including survivors and their representative organisations. We commit to fostering and strengthening partnerships, leveraging each other's strengths and resources to achieve our shared goals. In doing so, we will do our utmost to commit the necessary national and international resources and explore new mechanisms for fostering cooperation and assistance, including those based on innovative financing, and jointly ensure that no State is left behind in its implementation efforts.

11. We recognise the importance of synergies with other international frameworks such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the work of the World Health Organization on rehabilitation and assistive technology, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, amongst other, and will take advantage of these synergies to strengthen the Convention's implementation.

12. We recognise that the effective implementation of the Convention directly contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We commit to strengthen synergies between the Convention and the sustainable development agenda, ensuring the greatest benefits for affected communities.

13. We recognise the importance of our implementation efforts ensuring consideration for the different needs and vulnerabilities of girls, women, boys, and men, including mine victims, in mine-affected communities, as well as other factors such as disability, ethnicity, and different socio-economic groups. By ensuring an inclusive approach, including removing barriers to full, equal, and gender-balanced participation in mine action and Convention meetings, we aim to protect all people from the negative consequences of anti-personnel mines.

14. We recognise that climate change and environmental degradation can exacerbate challenges in affected communities and commit to adopting environmentally-sound practices and take climate considerations into account in the prioritisation and implementation of the Convention.

15. As we look towards a future free from the threat of anti-personnel mines, we are guided by the principles of humanity and human security that led to the Convention's creation. We reaffirm our commitment to implementation in the Convention's traditional spirit of transparency and cooperation with the urgency that our work requires.

16. We will spare no effort to achieve a mine-free world and appeal to all States and stakeholders to join us in this endeavour. We aspire to meet these goals to the fullest extent possible by the Sixth Review Conference in 2029. The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029 is an essential tool for fulfilling this ambition and we encourage all States Parties and parties involved to commit to its full implementation.

Draft