

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

**Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties, 1-5 December 2025**

**General Exchange of Views**

**Statement by Austria**

Madame President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at the outset to express our utmost appreciation to you, Mme. President and your team, for the dedicated and skilful leadership over the past year. I would also like to thank the ISU for their - as always - outstanding support.

Austria deeply appreciates the tremendous effort and energy that the Special Envoys for Universalisation, HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium and HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein of Jordan have put into raising awareness about the Convention and its humanitarian cause and advocating for States not yet party to join. Their contributions have clearly made a difference. We warmly welcome the Marshall Islands and Tonga – for whom the Convention enters into force today - as new States Parties and look forward to working closely with them.

The participation of survivors and their representative organisations has been crucial for our work from the beginning. We thank Dr. Alex Munyambabazi for his powerful opening statement on behalf of survivors and affected communities. We must never forget the very human face of the effect of these weapons.

Mme. President,

We will use the opportunity during the thematic sessions to address the progress and the challenges in the implementation of the Convention's provisions in more detail. We want to use the opportunity today to put the Convention as such at the centre of our reflection.

Austria is firmly committed to the objective of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to pursue a conclusive end to the suffering caused by these inhuman weapons, driven by the devastating and lasting humanitarian, psychological, economic and social consequences that anti-personnel mines have even decades after conflict has ended.

While fully recognising the sovereign rights of States, we remain deeply concerned about the recent unprecedented withdrawals of States Parties from the Convention. We call on all States

and non-state actors to cease immediately any production, transfer, stockpiling or use of these weapons.

The Mine Ban Convention and the Cluster Munitions Convention contribute powerfully to a minimum protection of civilians –civilians, families and children – during the darkest days of war. Therefore, they enshrine – like other humanitarian disarmament treaties – the absolute prohibition of these weapons at all times and under any circumstances and do not permit suspension from the Treaty obligations.

We must remain clear in communicating that any military utility of anti-personnel mines is by far outweighed by the humanitarian consequences of these weapons. Therefore, the global prohibition norm that by far exceeds the realm of this Treaty must be preserved.

I thank you.