

Statement on Compliance

22nd Meeting of States Parties, Mine Ban Treaty
Geneva, 1-5 December 2025

Thank you, Madam President,

The ICBL greatly appreciates the diligent work of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance across so many challenging fronts.

We also thank Sudan and Yemen for the updates provided on their investigations into allegations of mine use.

The ICBL is deeply concerned by Ukraine's absence from the meeting this week and its apparent lack of engagement. We are seriously troubled by the lack of updates on the investigation into alleged antipersonnel mine use by Ukrainian forces in 2022. We are further disturbed by increasing indications of AP mine use by Ukraine in 2024 and 2025. In addition to the transfer of U.S. antipersonnel mines to Ukraine announced last year, it appears that AP mines are being fabricated by Ukrainian companies and individuals.

All of this is even more alarming in light of Ukraine's unilateral announcement of a suspension of its obligations under the Convention. We have also noted with concern Ukraine's recent abstention on the annual UNGA resolution on the Convention.

Ukraine remains a State Party to the Convention and is bound by all of its prohibitions and obligations. Should Ukraine use and/or produce antipersonnel mines, this would constitute a breach of the Convention. We call on Ukraine to immediately re-engage in the work of the Convention and to return into full compliance. We also urge States Parties—particularly Ukraine's close allies—to encourage Ukraine in this direction.

We are deeply saddened this year by allegations of mine use along the Thai–Cambodian border. We call on both Cambodia and Thailand to conduct transparent investigations into these allegations and to report their findings to States Parties. The ICBL conducted recently a research mission in the border area. We are concerned by the apparent presence of caches of AP mines in the border area; these must be located, retrieved and destroyed without delay. The ICBL further urges both states to re-establish dialogue and cooperation to ensure the swift clearance of contaminated border areas.

Let us recall: the use of antipersonnel mines is prohibited at all times, by all actors, and under any circumstances.

There are other serious compliance concerns, as recognized in the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan. Given the time constraints, I will highlight only a few.

Greece and Ukraine remain in violation of the Convention for having missed their stockpile destruction deadlines long ago. We look forward to receiving further updates from Greece on its destruction efforts at the next session. As for Ukraine, it is essential that concrete measures are taken to ensure that stockpiled mines cannot reach the battlefield while awaiting destruction.

Additional compliance concerns relate to:

- Article 3: mines inappropriately retained for training and research;
- Article 5: delayed implementation or non-action on clearance obligations;
- Article 7: persistently low rates of transparency reporting;
- Article 9: lack of adequate national implementation measures.

These long-standing and emerging compliance challenges require dedicated and sustained attention from the President, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, and all States Parties, in order to address them effectively.

Thank you.