

**Statement by Armenia at the
Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties
to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Geneva, 1-5 December 2025

Agenda item 9 f) Universalizing the Convention

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The scourge of anti-personnel landmines and their devastating impact on civilian populations strike at the very core of our shared humanitarian values. Armenia approaches mine action not as a matter of politics, but as a humanitarian imperative.

While Armenia is not a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, we fully support and align with its overarching objective: to confront the humanitarian challenges posed by anti-personnel landmines and to ensure the protection of civilian lives. In this spirit, Armenia has consistently undertaken significant efforts in its national capacity to contribute to this global goal.

To this end, Armenia adheres to national policies consistent with the principles of the Convention. Our affirmative vote on the resolution titled *“Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction”* at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly underscores our commitment and recognition of the Convention’s importance.

Armenia’s steadfast dedication to humanitarian principles has also been demonstrated through our participation in the humanitarian mission in Aleppo, Syria, from 2019 to 2024. Through the work of our demining and medical teams, we have sought to mitigate the threats posed by anti-personnel landmines in densely populated areas, saving lives and restoring hope.

At the same time, we must emphasize that mine action should never be politicized or exploited as a tool for advancing narrow agendas, spreading false narratives, or whitewashing aggressive policies. Armenia firmly believes that mine action must remain grounded in humanitarian principles. Turning this urgent issue into a source of escalatory rhetoric undermines the spirit of international cooperation and detracts from the ultimate goal - saving lives.

As a country that has witnessed first-hand the tragic toll of landmines, Armenia remains deeply concerned about the innocent human losses. We underscore the need for genuine, depoliticized collaboration to prevent further suffering and to ensure the safety of communities living in contaminated areas.

The extensive contamination with mines and unexploded ordnances in four regions of Armenia - Gegharkunik, Syunik, Vayots Dzor, and Tavush, represents a significant humanitarian challenge. It continues to threaten the safety and livelihoods of local communities, resulting in injuries, fatalities, and impeding access to essential services and resources. According to official data, mine explosions in Armenia have claimed 115 lives and injured 690 people, with a total of 805 victims, the majority of whom are civilians.

Today, 10 communities, encompassing around 200,000 people, live within hazardous zones. Contaminated land severely restricts agricultural production, infrastructure development, and access to basic services. Addressing this massive contamination is not only a humanitarian imperative, it is crucial for enhancing economic opportunities, improving food security, and fostering community development in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Armenia's message is clear: mine action must remain a humanitarian endeavor, rooted in compassion and cooperation. We stand ready to work with all partners to advance this cause.

Thank you.