

**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**

**Universalization**

**Statement by Austria**

Madame President,

Let me again welcome the Marshall Islands and Tonga. This is the first time in eight years that new States joined the Convention, underlining the importance of this humanitarian disarmament instrument and the norm it embodies in times of increased challenges to both. We commend you, Madame President, as well as the Coordinators for Universalization and all other States Parties, the ICRC and Civil Society for their unwavering efforts in this regard.

Our Convention remains one of the most universal disarmament treaties whose impact reaches far beyond States Parties alone. Several states outside the Convention have put moratoria on the production, use and transfer of anti-personnel mines and we welcome all intermediary steps that can be taken towards full accession. This speaks for our common goal to achieving a mine free world.

Anti-personnel mines are prohibited by our Convention because of their indiscriminate nature and their unacceptable humanitarian and socio-economic consequences. Their alleged military utility stands in no relation to the immediate and long-term humanitarian harm. Austria condemns in the strongest terms any use of anti-personnel mines by any actor under any circumstances. We deplore the recent increase in use and are alarmed by the resulting number of casualties.

Madame President,

Europe is confronted by a brutal and illegal war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine. We are shocked by Russia's widespread and continuous use of anti-personnel mines against Ukraine, which makes Ukraine the most mine contaminated country in the world. Austria fully stands with Ukraine in its self-defence and has always been supporting Ukraine, including by through mine action.

It is crucial for our collective security to uphold international law, in particular international humanitarian law and human rights law, and to reinforce the stigma against anti-personnel mines.

While fully acknowledging the particular security situation of five European States, Austria regrets that these States have submitted their instruments of withdrawal from the Convention. We are concerned about the implications on our joint objective of achieving a mine-free world and on IHL, the protection of civilians and the humanitarian principles in general. We express our strong hope that these States will recommit to never produce, use, stockpile or transfer anti-personnel mines.

Madame President,

By the time the Treaty was adopted, it was clear that a comprehensive prohibition of anti-personnel mines was the only acceptable outcome with no exceptions due to unspeakable suffering of these inhumane weapons. The Convention does not permit suspension. The Convention as a whole and all its provisions apply at all times and under any circumstances. We need to safeguard the Convention and ensure that no precedent is set for this Convention or other humanitarian treaties.

Thank you.