

**22nd Meeting of the States Parties  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Statement by LATVIA  
Geneva, 2 December 2025**

*Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Allow me to begin by expressing our appreciation to the President and to the Implementation Support Unit for their work in convening and facilitating this meeting.

Latvia acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2005 and, for twenty years, has fully complied with all its provisions. We have consistently valued the Convention's importance in mitigating the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel mines and in fostering international cooperation in mine action.

However, on 16 April 2025, the Parliament of Latvia took a difficult decision to withdraw from the Convention. On 27 June, Latvia — together with Estonia and Lithuania — submitted the formal notice of withdrawal.

This decision was taken in the context of a profoundly deteriorated security environment in our region, directly resulting from Russia's ongoing military aggression against Ukraine.

For almost four years, the Russian Federation has waged a brutal, unprovoked, and illegal war of aggression. We have also witnessed explicit threats issued by Russian officials toward neighbouring states, including Latvia.

In addition, we face regular airspace violations, hybrid attacks targeting underwater infrastructure, persistent GPS interference, and acts of sabotage. These hostile activities form part of a pattern of behaviour that demonstrates that further aggression by Russia against other states cannot be entirely ruled out.

*Madam President,*

The decision to withdraw from the Convention has not been taken lightly. Latvia engaged in extensive consultations with NATO Allies, international partners, and civil society organisations throughout the decision-making process.

We are grateful to those states that have expressed understanding of the considerations behind this difficult step.

Latvia is pursuing measures necessary to safeguard our sovereignty and territorial integrity in a transparent manner and in full respect of our international obligations. We remain firmly committed to international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and the Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Latvia will continue to act with responsibility, integrity, and full regard for civilian protection.

Let me stress that, despite our withdrawal, Latvia remains committed to the humanitarian objectives of this Convention. We will continue to support humanitarian mine action, including through our financial contributions to the United Nations Mine Action Service and through our active engagement in demining assistance — particularly in Ukraine.

In short, Latvia will continue to stand for humanitarian principles, international law, and support to all civilians affected by mines.

Thank you for your attention!