



UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

22ND MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES

01-05 DECEMBER 2025

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

Agenda Item 9.f) Universalising the Convention

Madam President,

Thank you for your leadership of our collective efforts to grow and strengthen the Convention - against a deeply challenging backdrop. You and your team deserve enormous credit for the fact that our Convention has grown for the first time since 2017.

We welcome the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga to the Convention. The Convention is now almost universally adopted within the Pacific. We are optimistic that further progress can be made.

The UK continues to work actively towards the goal of universalisation. We are ready to engage with any state not party to the Convention, to support their accession and the delivery of their commitments.

The goal of universalisation is also supported by progress in implementing obligations under the Convention. We therefore commend the Sultanate of Oman for the completion of its clearance obligations under Article 5. And we welcome assessments that Croatia is on track to meet its 1 March 2026 deadline.

Madam President,

Russia is not a State Party to our Convention. Yet its actions hang like a dark cloud over our proceedings.



UK Mission
Geneva

Russia's brutal and illegal invasion of Ukraine flies in the face of the UN Charter, International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

Russia has likely laid more anti-personnel landmines in the past two years than any other state.

It is in the context of this generational challenge to regional and global security that five countries have decided to withdraw from the Convention.

We hope this will only be temporary.

And we welcome the commitments they have made today to international law, and to mine action.

Similarly, as noted in our joint statement with Australia circulated on 23 October, Russia's illegal invasion is the extreme context in which Ukraine has taken the decision to purportedly suspend its operation of the Convention.

Ukraine continues to face impossible choices in its existential fight against Russia, for Ukraine's sovereignty and for Ukraine's territorial integrity.

The UK is, though, clear, that the APMBC itself does not allow for suspension of the operation of the Convention. We encourage Ukraine to engage within the framework of the Convention.

Our support for Ukraine's efforts towards a just and lasting peace remains steadfast.

Madam President,

Despite the challenging geopolitical climate in which we work, we believe the Convention will continue to move forward in the coming years.

The Siem Reap Action Plan provides us with a clear roadmap.

Non-States Parties continue to move towards the Convention and its implementation.

As the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs reminded us this week, this Convention has delivered extraordinary progress.

The UK joins the High Representative in our desire to defend this legacy, and to ensure that it continues to grow.