

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer  
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

**Intersessional Meetings, 17 – 20 June 2025**

**Universalisation**

**Statement by Austria**

Madame President,

The Mine Ban Convention is one of the most universal disarmament treaties and its norms against anti-personnel mines have demonstrated strong effect far beyond the States Parties. The recent ratification by Marshall Islands in March this year as well as the interest shown by other States in the region to accede to the Convention speaks for our common goal to achieving a mine free world.

We commend you, Madame President, as well the Coordinators for Universalization and all other States Parties, the ICRC and Civil Society for their unwavering efforts in this regard. 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,

Madame President,

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, as demonstrated by a large number of past, and regrettably also current, conflicts. By the time the Treaty was adopted, it was clear that a comprehensive ban of these inhuman weapons was the only acceptable outcome with no exceptions.

At the same time, anti-personnel mines continue to kill and maim civilians throughout the world. Austria reiterates the absolute prohibition of anti-personnel mines and in the strongest terms condemns 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.

In such times it is crucial for our collective security to uphold international law, in particular international humanitarian law, to insist on the progress that has been achieved over decades in creating this body of law and to reinforce the stigma against anti-personnel mines. Austria therefore regrets that five European States have initiated and advanced their procedures for

withdrawal from the Convention. We are concerned about the implications of such decisions on our joint goal of achieving a mine-free world and beyond this Convention on IHL, the protection of civilians and the humanitarian principles in general. We express our strong hope that these States will recommit to never use, produce or transfer anti-personnel mines.

We welcome and join the Secretary General's call that "[a]t a time when civilians face heightened risks from widening conflicts, it is imperative that we strengthen the frameworks that protect human life and dignity."

Madame President,

We call on States not Party to the Convention to respect the strong norms established by the Convention in line with their international legal obligations and not to use, produce, transfer or stockpile anti-personnel mines, if not as a States Party but as a member of the International Community.

Europe is confronted by the brutal and illegal war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine. We are shocked by Russia's widespread and continuous use of anti-personnel mines against Ukraine. Austria fully stands with Ukraine in its self-defence and always supports Ukraine, including by providing assistance for mine action. We appreciate Ukraine's commitment to fully investigate all allegations of use of Anti-Personnel Mines and the update received yesterday. We deem it important that Ukraine continues to fully adhere to its obligations.

Thank you.