

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Intersessional meetings 2025

7. Matters related to the mandate of the President

7a. Universalization

Statement by Norway

President,

Norway remains firmly committed to the universalization of the Convention. Fulfilling our collective responsibility to uphold and promote the norm banning anti-personnel mines is more pressing than ever.

Disarmament conventions are not commitments that apply only in peacetime. The APMBC was designed to set clear standards that apply in all circumstances, but especially in armed conflict. As an integral part of IHL, the Convention's purpose is to protect civilians from these indiscriminate weapons. Hence, we must stand by the Convention – also when the security landscape changes. We must make sure the norm is applied consistently and without exception. These principles should guide our efforts to universalize the Convention.

Norway welcomes the decision by the Marshall Islands to formally accede to the Convention. This is a cause for celebration. We also welcome positive steps by Tonga and Micronesia towards joining the Convention, confirming the continued relevance of the Convention.

Lately, the Convention has also been facing serious challenges. We share the concern expressed by the Secretary General in his statement regarding steps taken by several states parties to withdraw from the convention. We cannot let these withdrawals diminish the collective resolve that has made this instrument so successful.

We are concerned, however, about the potential knock-on effects. Against this backdrop, we welcome the Secretary General's global campaign to drive forward a vision of a mine-free world. This is more needed than ever.

As a country sharing a border with Russia, we recognize and share the legitimate security concerns arising from Russia's (illegal) war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia's massive use of anti-personnel mines. These weapons have no place in modern warfare.

In this context, Norway reaffirms its commitment to never use, develop, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer anti-personnel mines. We welcome the participation of the withdrawing states in the room today. We also welcome their commitment to continuing to act in the spirit of the Convention to the greatest extent possible. We will maintain a close and regular dialogue - including on the possibility of acceding to the Convention again in the future and returning to the community of States Parties.

President,

Norway calls on all States Parties to reaffirm their full commitment to the Convention. We also urge States not yet party to join without delay, reinforcing the global norm and contributing to a safer world for all.

Norway will continue to promote universalization vigorously, through diplomatic engagement and cooperation with partners. Our shared responsibility is to ensure that the standards established by the APMBC remain robust, universal, and uncompromised.

Thank you.