

12 June 2025

Asia-Pacific Joint Statement on Recent Withdrawals from the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions

We, campaigners, supporters, and civil society organizations from across Asia and the Pacific, express our grave concern over the recent decisions of several States to withdraw or distance themselves from the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) and the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). These decisions risk undermining the humanitarian norms and international legal standards that our global community has worked so hard to uphold.

These treaties are not merely legal instruments; they are moral commitments to protect civilians, uphold human dignity, and ensure that weapons which cause indiscriminate and long-term harm have no place in any society, during conflict or in peace.

The rationale of “national security” to justify the use or production of anti-personnel landmines or cluster munitions is deeply troubling. These weapons do not guarantee protection; they guarantee suffering, long after wars end. Their use devastates communities, maims generations, and obstructs reconstruction and reconciliation.

As campaigners from Asia and the Pacific, many from communities that have endured armed conflict, colonial occupation, and ongoing armed violence, we know the consequences of war and the long shadow cast by explosive remnants. Yet we also bring forward traditions of resilience, reconciliation, and regional peacebuilding. From these roots, our peoples’ movement has helped shape international disarmament efforts, advancing survivor-led advocacy, integrating humanitarian disarmament into peace processes, and championing the belief that true security lies in justice and human dignity, not in weapons.

We stand in solidarity with landmine and cluster munition survivors, who remind us that justice is not just about removing weapons, but also about restoring dignity and accountability. Withdrawing from these humanitarian disarmament treaties may heighten risks for women and marginalized groups, exacerbating vulnerability to these weapons and hindering their contributions in socio-economic spheres.

At a time when some are retreating from disarmament commitments, we take heart in welcoming new State Parties from our region who have chosen to stand on the side of life, law, and humanity. Their accession shows the right direction forward, one that affirms our collective responsibility to future generations.

We celebrate these positive steps and urge other governments in the region to follow suit, joining the global consensus that these weapons are never acceptable.

Call to Action

We call on all States, particularly those reconsidering their treaty obligations, to:

1. **Reaffirm their commitment to the MBT and CCM**, and reject the militarized narratives that seek to normalize inhumane weapons;

2. **Engage in inclusive dialogue** with civil society, survivors, and communities affected by conflict;
3. **Lead with principled diplomacy**, reinforcing rather than weakening international humanitarian law and disarmament norms.

Let the Asia-Pacific region be a **voice of conscience and courage** in this critical moment.

Together, we affirm: **No justification can make the use of landmines or cluster munitions acceptable. The path to peace is not paved with explosives—it is built through justice, solidarity, and sustained disarmament.**

(end)

This Statement was initiated by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition Asia-Pacific Group

Endorsed by:

(List of endorsing organizations and individuals as of 28 May 2025)

Organizations

1. Association for Aid and Relief (AAR Japan), Japan
2. Association of War Affected Women, Sri Lanka
3. Aotearoa New Zealand Joint Working Group on Landmines and Cluster Munitions
4. Australia Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ACHRP), Australia
5. Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal, Nepal
6. BaseWatch, Australia
7. Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions (tbc)
8. Center for International Security and Policy, Kazakhstan
9. Center for Peace Education, Miriam College, Philippines
10. Eden International (tbc)
11. Forum on Disarmament and Development, Sri Lanka
12. Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, Philippines
13. Generation Peace Youth Network, Philippines
14. Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines, India
15. Independent and Peaceful Australia Network, Australia
16. Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines (JCBL), Japan
17. Korean Campaign to Ban Landmines, South Korea
18. Legacies of War
19. Marrickville Peace Group
20. NGO Peace Boat, Japan
21. Nonviolence International Southeast Asia, Philippines
22. Pace e Bene Australia
23. Pacific Fellowship, Australia
24. Pax Christi Aotearoa NZ, New Zealand
25. Pax Christi International
26. Pax Christi Korea, South Korea
27. Pax Christi USA, USA

28. Peace Movement Aotearoa
29. People's Action for Inclusive Development, Cambodia
30. Perú por el Desarme, Peru
31. Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL), Philippines
32. Quakers in Western Australia (Religious Society of Friends)
33. Queensland Quakers (The Religious Society of Friends)
34. SafeGround, Australia
35. Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO), Pakistan
36. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa Section
37. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Australia

Individuals

1. Andrew Williams
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3. Cecilia Jimenez Damary, former UN Special Rapporteur on IDPs
4. Christine Hunter, WILPF Australia
5. Daryl Lutero, Politics and Governance Instructor, Philippines
6. David Higginbottom, IPAN Australia
7. David Scrimgeour, retired public health physician, Australia
8. Diah Kusumaningrum, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
9. Diane Tate
10. Dr Eileen Whitehead, retired, Australia
11. Ema Tagicakibau, Gender, women's rights and disarmament expert, Fiji
12. Dr. Iman Bagherpour/ Iran
13. Dr Johanna Garnett, Peace Studies – UNE
14. John Brennan
15. Katori SAKAI
16. María Eugenia Villarreal / ECPAT | SEHLAC. México
17. Maricel Aguilar, Women, Peace and Security Specialist, Philippines
18. Dr. Marty Branagan, Associate Professor in Peace Studies, UNE
19. Miriam Coronel Ferrer, Negotiation/Mediation Expert, Philippines
20. Paz Verdades Santos, Literature Professor (retired)
21. Philip White, Australia
22. Serdar M. Değirmencioğlu, Researcher, Turkey/Italy
23. Soliman Santos Jr, Regional Trial Court Judge (retired)/HR & IHL expert
24. Toshihiro Shimizu, Executive Director/JCBL, Japan
25. Visaka Dharmadasa, Peace Activist, Sri Lanka
26. Wanda Muñoz, Consultant, Disarmament and Victim Assistance, Mexico
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