



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL  
GENEVA

**Eleventh Pledging Conference  
for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

*Geneva, 9 March 2026*

Madam President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to commend you on the organization of this Pledging Conference.

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

Madam President,

The Ottawa Convention is one of the most successful humanitarian disarmament instruments, having contributed to large scale destruction of stocks and clearing of contaminated territories. Portugal reaffirms its commitment to the Convention and to its ultimate goal of achieving a mine-free world.

Antipersonnel landmine contamination poses a grave obstacle to peace and stability. Demining is a structural condition to allow for safe humanitarian access, return of displaced populations, and economic and social development.

Russia's illegal and unjustified full-scale invasion has determined that Ukraine is today the most mine-contaminated country in the world. This is a grave problem that demands an urgent, sustainable and cooperative approach.

Portugal has participated in the Ukraine Mine Action Conferences, including in the 2025 edition that took place in Tokyo in October last year. Bilaterally, the Agreement for

Security Cooperation signed by Portugal and Ukraine in 2024 includes provisions on demining under which Portugal has materialized demining cooperation with Ukraine, including by supplying demining detectors.

Madam President,

Portugal welcomes the invaluable work of the Implementation Support Unit in supporting the States Parties in the fulfilment of their obligations to the Convention. The ISU's role is essential to translate our political commitments into concrete, measurable, and sustainable humanitarian impact. We thank the team's commitment, under the steady leadership of Director Juan Carlos Ruan.

To implement its mandate, the ISU fully depends on voluntary contributions. It is up to us – the States Parties – to ensure that the funding to the ISU is adequate, predictable and sustainable. For this reason, Portugal encourages all States Parties in a position to do so to contribute to the ISU budget.

In this context, following our voluntary contribution in 2024 and reiterating our commitment to the Convention, Portugal has made a voluntary contribution of €10,000.00 to the ISU in December 2025 – and we encourage all States Parties to do the same. All contributions, big and small, are important to fulfill our common goals.

Thank you.