The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is the short name for the:

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

(known informally as the Ottawa Convention or Mine Ban Treaty)

The Convention was adopted in Oslo on 18 September 1997. It opened for signature in Ottawa on 3 and 4 December 1997, remaining open until its entry into force on 1 March 1999. For their determination in calling for the Convention, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and its Coordinator Jody Williams were awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

Thanks to the strong norm against anti-personnel mines, much has been achieved in the past two decades. However, significant challenges remain. Some States Parties have not yet achieved their mine-clearance goals; and, while the number of mine victims had steadily decreased for more than a decade, remaining contamination and new use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, mainly at the hands of armed non-state actors, has called attention on the need to step up efforts for clearance, risk education and reduction, and assistance to victims. Overall reporting rates remain low. Particularly, for States Parties with outstanding requirements to enact national legislation, and States that retain anti-personnel mines which have not submitted annual transparency information for many years. Two States Parties have also missed their deadline to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines.
EU COUNCIL DECISION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS ACTION PLAN(S)

In this context and in the framework of its Security Strategy, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted Decision CFSP 2017/1428 to support implementation of the Convention as called for in the Maputo and Oslo Action Plans. The Convention’s Implementation Support Unit (ISU) was entrusted to serve as technical implementer. The Action (or project) was to be implemented from November 2017 to October 2020. Due to the global pandemic however, the Action was extended with activities carried out until February 2021.

The EU and its Member States long history of support to mine action predates the Ottawa Convention. In fact, the EU was among the first to condemn the indiscriminate character of anti-personnel mines, with a number of its Member States being active in the so-called Ottawa Process which led to the creation of the Convention. To date, all EU Member States are party to the Convention.

The European Union is the world’s second largest mine action donor, and a dozen of its Member States are among the world’s top 25 mine action contributors1.

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1 Landmine Monitor 2020
PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Due to the global pandemic, these activities were held either in virtual or hybrid format.
The following activities were undertaken under the approval of the respective Committees

**ARTICLE 5:** The ISU supported Bosnia and Herzegovina (2018), Ecuador and Peru (2021), and Senegal (2018) to carry out National Stakeholders Dialogues seeking to facilitate aspects related to mine clearance, coordination, reporting, and cooperation and assistance under the Maputo and Oslo Action Plans. To make use of synergies with regional instruments, the Americas’ (virtual) regional exercise was carried out in partnership with the Organization of American States (OAS), and had speakers joining from five countries in the Americas.

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE (VA):** The ISU supported Colombia (2021), Iraq (2018), South Sudan (2019), and Uganda (2018) to kick-start, develop, or update national disability / victim assistance plans. In South Sudan, the ISU carried out this Dialogue in partnership with UNMAS.

In Jordan (2019), the ISU supported the realisation of Fostering Partnerships, a three-day Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Other Explosive Remnants of War and Disability Rights. The conference was chaired by the Convention’s Special Envoy HRH Prince Mired Zeid Raad Al-Hussein, and had the logistical support of the Jordanian National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation.

Two virtual events were held, one from Chile (2020) where the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Disability and Accessibility held a webinar on inclusion and accessibility. The second was carried out with speakers joining from various parts of the world.

**UNIVERSALIZATION:** Under the Convention President’s mandate, the ISU supported the deployment of the Special Envoys Her Royal Highness Astrid, Princess of Belgium, and HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein from Jordan. The Special Envoys engaged with leadership of Lao PDR, Lebanon, and Myanmar. The Special Envoy also engaged with Sri Lanka ahead of its decision to join the Convention, and undertook a visit to Sri Lanka shortly after Sri Lanka deposited its instrument of accession.

**TRANSPARENCY IN IMPLEMENTATION:** One annual public briefing kept the Convention community abreast of successes and challenges in implementation with nearly 200 persons attending including representatives of donor and affected States including not party, international and non-governmental organisations, and with ICBL in representation of civil society providing feedback on implementation at each briefing.
A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COORDINATED EFFORT

In the spirit of cooperation which has been a staple of the Convention, stakeholders were approached, consulted, involved, or participated in events in 16 countries. These included,

Office holders (5 Convention Presidencies and Coordinating Committees), Special Envoys, 15 EU structures/Delegations, and representatives of:

- **72 States Parties**
- **14 international/regional organisations and/or UN agencies**
- **161 national and international non-governmental organisations**
  - Among them and as called for in the Decision, the ICBL and its Member Organisations, plus other expert organisations including DCA/DDG, FSD, GICHD, HALO Trust, Humanity and Inclusion, IDA, MAG, NPA, OVCI
Gender and the diverse needs of mine-affected communities were considered in all aspects of the project from design and management, to implementation and participation. Whenever possible, cross-cutting issues including disability rights, health, inclusive education, mine action as part of peacebuilding, poverty reduction, transitional justice, security, labour, and development were addressed in tandem.

Over 840 persons attended the 11 Dialogues under the Action with 41% Women participation.

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<th>PARTICIPATION</th>
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<td>161 national and international non-governmental organisations attended of which 116 represented the rights of mine survivors and/or other persons with disabilities</td>
<td>100% of the physical venues/virtual platforms where VA activities took place were either barrier-free, or enhancements were made to ensure accessibility; this included providing sign language interpretation and/or closed captioning</td>
<td>Sponsorship was offered to 37% of participants ensuring effective representation including from mine survivors and/or their representative organisations in rural, remote regions</td>
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Gender or the diverse needs of mine-affected communities was addressed in all 11 Dialogues.
Promotion of the Convention and its norms were delivered by the Special Envoys to,

- 2 Presidents
- 4 Ministers
- 3 Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs
- 3 Ministers of Defence
- 3 Ministers of Labour and Interior in charge of mine action

In addition to various Presidential Advisors, Heads of Mine Action Centres, and other High-Level Officials.
ARTICLE 5
IMPLEMENTATION

The activities provided a platform for *dialogue* between state(s) and stakeholders including: local/regional government, national and international partners, mine-affected communities, military/police, and peace and reconciliation actors, when relevant.
Sponsorship was extended to mine survivors, representatives from mine-affected regions, non-governmental organisations, Regional Directors of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC), and Directors of mine action centres in Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia. National authorities with feedback from stakeholders agreed an understanding on recommendations including a “consistent use of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) terminology”, and greater transparency and inclusion in planning.

**Follow-up support:** in 2020 about 30 similar representatives participated in a one-day workshop where BHMAC shared the basis, timeline and costs of its upcoming extension request. In an exit interview, participants welcomed state efforts to make the process more transparent.

**Notable achievements:**
- Mine survivors, affected communities, and their representative organisations included in the Dialogue and follow up activities.
- Acting on commitments to increase survivor participation in matters that concern them, Bosnia and Herzegovina nominated one mine survivor to participate along the state representative, in the 2019 Global Conference on Victim Assistance.
- Greater engagement between the state and local government and organisations.

### Humanitarian Demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Towards Completion
The Dialogue contributed to renewed engagement and interaction among stakeholders. Thanks to sponsorship provided under the Action, various landmine survivors, municipal representatives from mine-affected regions including police and military, regional non-governmental organisations involved in mine risk education, peace process actors, and local mine action experts were invited from Casamance to Dakar to meet in person with government and donors, which ultimately resulted in follow up activities and increased funding.

**Notable achievements:**

Civil society stakeholders (including those involved in the national peace process) jointly adopted a *Déclaration* committing to support Senegal’s efforts including in areas “difficult to access”.

- Improved reporting and communication followed up by meetings with local stakeholders.
- Improved cooperation with international donors following intervention.
The Americas Regional Dialogue sought to create a more global understanding of the “final push” still required by Ecuador and Peru to complete their Article 5 obligation within the 2025 ambition expressed in the Maputo and Oslo Declarations. Convention stakeholders have an opportunity to make a mark in a region on the brink of becoming mine-free. The Dialogue also had the support of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The event was held entirely online on two days. It counted with high-level engagement including by the EU Special Envoy for Disarmament, OAS Secretary General, the Convention Special Envoy, Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Peru, ambassadors, and EU Delegations.

**Notable results include:**

- Evidence-based and costed work plans presented in a clear, transparent manner to the international community.
- Both States Parties invited to participate in a session of the Mine Action Support Group.
VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Three (3) national action plans and strategies to support assistance to victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war were developed or adopted.

Mine survivors were at the centre of all Dialogues. Post-meeting surveys indicated that these activities represented the first opportunity for most of them to discuss with relevant authorities matters that directly concern them.
The aim of this Dialogue was to support Iraq in kick-starting an inclusive national process to develop its first National Action Plan on Victim Assistance. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was extensively discussed as a framework to ensure sustainable assistance and efforts such as data collection. Challenges in the provision of rehabilitation, also a pillar of victim assistance, was identified as a big concern by Directors of various Rehabilitation Centres in the most mine-affected regions.

**Notable results include:**

- Iraq’s Directorate for Mine Action (DMA) announced that after a series of setbacks “a National Plan under the Commission for Persons with Disabilities was being developed”.

- The Plan is a joint venture between the Ministry of Health (which oversees mine clearance and victim assistance), DMA, and partners. Security problems and the pandemic however, have delayed efforts.
Efforts to carry out a Dialogue involved a mix of grass roots campaigning and work from the Ministry of Gender. A sizable number of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities from the capital and rural and remote areas were sponsored to attend. Without sponsorship to guarantee their transportation and sustenance during the meeting, most survivors would have not been able to participate. Most of them travelled for days in order to reach Kampala.

Victim assistance is a long term obligation that goes beyond mine clearance completion. In the case of Uganda which declared completion in 2012, the intervention was very timely, as most victim assistance experts had retired or were close to retirement.

Notable results include:

- A Draft Plan was finalised, launched and socialised before key national and international partners including through follow-up support under the Action.
- New information on VA has been obtained by the Convention's Committee on VA.
- Re-informing of the linkages between VA and disability rights among state officials continues to date.
**Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Other Explosive Remnants of War and Disability Rights, Fostering Partnerships, Amman, Jordan 10-12 September 2019**

[Fostering Partnerships](http://bit.ly/Fostering-Partnerships) built upon the 2014 conference *Bridges between Worlds*, sponsored under a previous Action (2012). The conference, chaired by HRH Prince Mired, aimed to provide States with mine victims (whether Parties to the Convention or not), with the necessary tools to *foster national partnerships* between those responsible for the care and wellbeing of mine survivors, and those with responsibility for implementing instruments of international law related to disability rights.

Painstaking efforts were made to ensure that States, including those not party to the Convention that are experiencing new contamination and casualties, and relevant organisations working in those countries had the opportunity to attend.

Expert presenters included amongst others the Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility of the UN Secretary General, the Chair of the Committee of the CRPD, and experts from ICRC, IFRC, ILO, Humanity and Inclusion, UNDP, and WHO. While the Conference achieved its objectives, larger participation of the donor community could have enhanced conversations regarding sustained and alternative funding including through health aid and development packages.

**Notable results include:**

- Continued engagement from the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General in the work of the Convention has resulted in greater awareness of victim assistance beyond the mine action community.
- Partnerships among victim assistance experts increased.
- States not party whose victim assistance experts do not normally engage in the work of the Convention learned about resources available and exchanged knowledge with other experts.
For the success of the intervention, it was necessary to guarantee the participation of survivors and officials working in mine-affected provinces. Rainy season makes roads impassable leaving air travel as the only option. This however, meant extensive coordination with partners the National Mine Action Authority, UNMAS, and other relevant organisations. As in Uganda, some participants travelled long distances or for various days (in one case for nearly one week), in order to get to the meeting and back to their homes. Participants also got to visit the OVCI Rehabilitation Centre in Juba. This provided Regional Directors with the opportunity to see the type of services and facilities available in capital.

Notable results include:

- South Sudan adopted recommendations stemming from the Dialogue forming a Task Force that included civil society representatives, to develop its first National Action Plan on Disability and Victim Assistance.
- Through follow-up support, the Plan was developed, and national consultations undertaken. The Plan is now awaiting approval.
- New linkages created between the Mine Action Authority and the Ministry of Gender remain to date.
- The intervention provided Regional Directors of the Ministry of Gender the chance to meet each other in-person for the first time.
Despite delays of nearly a year due to the global pandemic, the Dialogue was carried out successfully in hybrid mode. A lot of work was undertaken to ensure no harm to vulnerable in-person participants that had to travel long distances. All this, while guaranteeing virtual accessibility for those in and out of the country unable to travel to the venue.

The agenda was developed with input of the (11) organisations of survivors that make up the nascent Colombia Network of Mine Survivors’ Associations, and included sessions with survivor networks including from El Salvador and Uganda.

Mornings were devoted to hybrid sessions, while afternoons gave way for in-person workshops including one on entrepreneurship and management of non-profit associations offered by the private sector.

Notable results include:

- Kick-started efforts to revise Colombia's national pathway for assistance to victims of anti-personnel mines and other unexploded ordnance with feedback from representative organisations and local government representatives.
- A workshop on strengthening international partnerships was offered by the Colombian Agency for International Cooperation.
- Links between disability rights and mine action were further enhanced through the President’s Office for Disability Affairs.
Global Conversation with the Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility
3 December 2020, virtually from Santiago, Chile, and Geneva, Switzerland

This interactive virtual conversation approached subjects as non-discriminatory approaches to victim assistance, funding, and national policies.

Global Conversation on Cooperation and Assistance for Victim Assistance Funding
4 December 2020, Virtually from Afghanistan, Belgium, Cambodia, Chile, Switzerland, and United States https://bit.ly/CoopAssist-VA

Panellists sought to provide States and relevant organisations with tools to access funding from development and rights-based sectors. Donor states, and organisations representing mine survivors used the opportunity to express their viewpoints for better cooperation in the mine action-victim assistance sector, which resulted in a lively multi-lingual interaction.

Experts included a mix of affected and donor states such as Cambodia, Italy, and the world’s largest mine action donor the United States of America. Mine survivors and organisations working on victim assistance were represented by Humanity and Inclusion and the Afghan Landmine Survivor Organisation (ALSO). Funding from the perspective of the disability rights domain was provided by the Office of the Special Envoy for Disability and Accessibility from Chile. Chad and Senegal provided feedback “from the floor” as well as the ICRC, ICBL-Landmine Monitor, and Sir Bobby Charlton’s/REVIVE Campaign.
In the Oslo Action Plan, the States Parties agreed to promote the Convention including with “actions taken at a high level”. The Action was highly successful in doing so, thanks to the engagement of the Convention’s Special Envoys.

In addition, during the missions the ISU Director invited these States to take steps towards accession including by submitting voluntary transparency reports, and briefed these States on support available from the ISU and relevant stakeholders.
Sri Lanka was the first State approached under the Action. Soon after, the then-State not party deposited its Instrument of Accession. During the mission, the Special Envoy took the opportunity to brief and appeal to the President, Primer Minister, various Ministers, Commander of the Army and humanitarian demining unit, other high-level officials, and academia to take a leadership role in the region and promote the Convention among Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) that have not yet joined.

As universalization approaches are multi-stakeholder efforts, bilateral meetings were also held with,

- 8 ambassadors including 1 from a state not party, Head of EU Delegation, UN Country Team and Resident Coordinator, and Head of Delegation of the ICRC
- 6 international and national non-governmental organisations including operators, and mine victims / disability rights representatives (DASH, HALO Trust, MAG, SCBL, SHARP and members of the academia and the press)
Universalization Mission – 28-30 May 2018 – Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, Myanmar

Special Envoy HRH Prince Mired travelled to Myanmar to encourage high ranking officials, Minister and Vice Minister of Defence and military team including the Commander of the army, and the Minister and Vice Minister of International Development, to undertake mine clearance, assist landmine victims, and strengthen Myanmar’s engagement with the work of the Convention as a matter of priority.

The Task Force also called on Myanmar to put in place a moratorium on production and use of anti-personnel mines. This was the first engagement of Convention officials with high-level members of government in Myanmar.

Universalization Mission – 3-4 October 2019 – Beirut, Lebanon

The Universalization Task Force led by HRH Astrid, Princess of Belgium, that included the Ambassadors of Belgium and Norway to Lebanon, met with the President of Lebanon, Minister of Defence, Minister of Interior, and Commander of the Army, to encourage the Lebanese Republic to make an official policy of its de facto practice and join the Convention.

HRH and Task Force also met with the Head of the Lebanese Mine Action Centre, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, and other stakeholders including international and non-governmental organisations, leaders of the private sector, and members of the press.
The Universalization Task Force led by HRH Prince Mired exhorted the Lao PDR Government and military to remain engaged in the work of the Convention and officialise what has been its de facto landmine policy. The Special Envoy met with the Prime Minister, Ministers and Vice Ministers of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and of Labour, and Chief of the national humanitarian demining unit, and visited a clearance site. In addition, HRH met with

6 ambassadors / deputy representatives of 6 States including 1 not party
UN Resident Coordinator, Head of the ICRC Delegation, UNDP

5 international and non-governmental organisations representing operators and mine victims / disability rights (HI, ICBL, MAG)
Launch of the EU Council Decision | Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties

To promote the newly adopted Decision and its goals, the EU Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament, the Convention’s Special Envoy, representatives from implementing states Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iraq, and ICBL Acting Director provided their views and hopes for implementation of the project. In attendance,

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The Maputo Action Plan:
National Stakeholder Dialogues in mine-affected States Parties
Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties - 26 November 2018
UN Geneva, Switzerland

After the first year of implementation, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Uganda, and Senegal joined the EU at a briefing to highlight successes obtained through partnerships; and receive feedback from the perspective of civil society, namely the ICBL, on follow-up activities. In attendance representatives from,
Experience and Challenges Encountered under EU Council Decision 2017/1428
Fourth Review Conference - 22 November 2019, Oslo, Norway

A summary of activities, follow-up actions, and lessons learnt were presented by the Convention's Special Envoy on universalization, and state representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Senegal, South Sudan, and Uganda and the ISU. The Special Envoy for Disability and Accessibility, and ICBL Director provided valuable feedback on the Action. The event was a success with participation of large number of delegates representing States Parties and not party,
Promoting and maintaining visibility of the Convention and the Action was a key element in implementing the project. Therefore, the ISU carried out,

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<td>media briefings in Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Bogota, Colombo, Dakar, Geneva, Juba, Kampala, Nai Pyi Taw, Sarajevo, and Vienna</td>
<td>newsletters were sent to members of the Convention community highlighting activities</td>
<td>briefings with disability rights actors including the CRPD Committee, UNSG Special Envoy, IDA, UN Special Rapporteur, WHO</td>
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| **100%** | **6** | **100%** |
| of activities featured EU officials or Representatives of EU Member States | Engagement with Academia in Dialogues and 200 attendees in a Sri Lanka Think Tank | of activities included participation of ICBL and/or its Member Organisations |

To avoid duplication in efforts, coordinate more efficiently, guarantee inclusion, and ensure wide participation, the ISU carried out

| **87** | **97%** |
| bilateral meetings in preparation or support of activities | of respondents of post-activities surveys and interviews rated the interventions as “successful” or “having met its objectives” |
This brochure was prepared by the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit thanks to support provided by the European Union

The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) is the Secretariat to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

The ISU is mandated to support the States Parties to the Convention including by

- Providing advice and technical support on implementation and universalization
- Providing support to the Convention’s office holders;
- Communicating on behalf of the President and States Parties, and providing information about the Convention;
- Keeping records of formal and informal meetings under the Convention; and,
- Liaising and coordinating with relevant international and non-governmental organisations that participate in the work of the Convention

The ISU is funded on a voluntary basis by the States Parties and directly accountable to them. The ISU is hosted in the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining thanks to support provided by Switzerland.

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