

WEB STORY

Mine Ban Convention: 24 years of work



The iconic Jet d'eau in Geneva illuminated with Convention colors to commemorate the 25 years since its adoption and signing

On 1 March, Germany welcomed the 24th anniversary of the entry into force of one of the most important disarmament instruments to date, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine Ban or Ottawa Convention), which has contributed to a safer world for millions of people.

“Germany as the Presidency of the Ottawa Convention this year, is steadfastly pushing for a world free of anti-personal mines.



Anti-personnel mines continue to kill and maim even decades after the fighting has ended... while the Ottawa Convention cannot undo the suffering that anti-personnel mines have inflicted on innocent people, the tragic losses, and terrible injuries, the Convention must continue its work to avoid new suffering and casualties caused by this barbaric weapon.

Therefore, on the anniversary of the Convention’s entry into force I call on the 33 States remaining outside the Convention to ratify and accede to the Convention, thereby making it universal.

I also call on affected State Parties to strengthen their efforts to implement their commitments and to those in a position to provide cooperation and assistance to continue to do so and to increase their support where possible.”

H.E. Thomas Göbel, Ambassador of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva



Editorial note: The Convention was adopted in Oslo and signed in Ottawa 25 years ago, it entered into force in 1999. It is the prime humanitarian and disarmament treaty aimed at ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines by prohibiting their use, stockpiling, production, and transfer, ensuring their destruction, and assisting the victims. Together, the States Parties have destroyed over 54 million anti-personnel mines. Landmine clearance under the Convention has contributed to peace and development by making millions of square metres of land safe again for normal human activity.