

Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

16 September 2019

English only

Second Preparatory Meeting
Geneva, 18 September 2019

Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda

Exchange of views on documents to be adopted at the Fourth Review Conference

(d) Draft elements for the Oslo political declaration on a mine-free world

Draft Elements for the Oslo Declaration on a Mine-Free World 2019

Submitted by the President of the Fourth Review Conference

1. We, the 164 States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, having met at the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo in November 2019, express our firm commitment to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. We are proud of the tremendous progress we have made in protecting women, girls, boys and men from the threat of anti-personnel mines to date. We now commit to strengthening our efforts in order to achieve our common goal of a mine-free world and the full and equal inclusion of survivors and victims.
2. We condemn any use of anti-personnel mines, by any actor, anywhere, and will continue to spare no effort to universalize the Convention. The norms established by the Convention are strong and we will continue to promote and defend them.
3. Since the entry into force of the Convention 20 years ago, we have destroyed more than 52 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines, 31 of us have completed our mine clearance obligations, we have released vast areas of land to communities for productive use, and we have made progress in ensuring victims and survivors lead dignified lives.
4. The successful implementation of the Convention has been underpinned by a unique spirit of cooperation and transparency, including strong partnerships with international organisations and civil society. We remain committed to continue fostering and strengthening these partnerships to achieve our common goals.
5. While we are proud of our joint achievements, many challenges remain. Contamination by anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature laid by non-state armed groups, continues to pose a threat to human life and impede development.
6. We, the States Parties, are deeply concerned by the rise in the number of casualties caused by new use of anti-personnel mines in recent years. The high number of injuries and deaths is a stark reminder of the continued relevance of the Convention. We will continue and strengthen our efforts to stigmatize and end the use of banned weapons.

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7. We are committed to clearing all mined areas as soon as possible and will make every effort to increase the speed of survey and clearance over the next five years.
8. We will destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines as soon as possible, mindful that each anti-personnel mine destroyed potentially represents a life or limb saved.
9. We will intensify our efforts to prevent new casualties in affected areas, including among internally displaced persons and refugees. We will strive towards providing effective, relevant and targeted mine risk education to reduce the risk until the threat can be removed.
10. We will take into account the different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men as we implement the obligations of the Convention. We recognize that integrating a gender and diversity perspective is important to effectively protect all people from anti-personnel landmines.
11. We recognize that a mine-free world does not mean a world without anti-personnel mine victims and survivors. We are committed to ensuring the full, equal and effective participation of mine survivors and victims in society, based on respect for human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination.
12. We recognize the need to integrate victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction.
13. We believe that strong national ownership and international cooperation and assistance are essential for the continued success of the Convention. We will do our utmost to strengthen partnerships and to sustain and, where necessary, increase resources, assistance and national funding, including by identifying new and alternative sources of funding.
14. We emphasize that the effective implementation of the Convention directly contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitment to leaving no one behind. We will continue to develop synergies between the Convention and the sustainable development agenda to ensure the greatest benefits possible for communities affected by anti-personnel mines.
15. Through the realisation of the Convention's aims, States Parties are saving lives, protecting civilians, assisting victims and enabling sustainable development in affected areas. We, the States Parties, commit to intensifying our efforts to complete our respective time-bound obligations to the fullest extent possible by 2025. The Oslo Action Plan 2019-2024 will be an essential tool towards the fulfilment of this ambition.
