



**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**

**25-29 November 2019**

**Oslo, Norway**

**General Statement by Ireland**

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union; I will add the following remarks in our national capacity.

President,

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation and thanks to Norway for hosting this Review Conference, for welcoming us to Oslo, and for the effective and inclusive management of this process. Your leadership and commitment ahead of this Review Conference should inspire us all to strive for an ambitious outcome which can bring us closer to our shared goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Ireland is particularly encouraged by Norway's efforts to promote gender equality in our work, and the effort to include gender perspectives in our considerations. Both of these approaches strengthen the Convention, and Ireland is pleased to see them reflected in the Oslo Action Plan, including in the pillars on mine risk education, victim assistance, and international cooperation and assistance.

President,

This fourth Review Conference comes at an important time in the life of this Convention. As 2025 fast approaches this meeting provides us the opportunity to renew our commitment and show our determination to end the abhorrent scourge of anti-personnel landmines once and for all.

Ireland welcomes the progress made on universalisation, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, transparency and implementation support since the Third Review Conference. At the same time, we are gravely concerned by the rise in the number of casualties since 2014 resulting from increased use of anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature, as well as landmine contamination from the past. Despite these setbacks, we remain firm in our belief that the vision of a world free of anti-personnel landmines is possible, and within reach, if we redouble our efforts.

We welcome the Oslo Action Plan, and express support for its cross-cutting actions designed to intensify States' efforts to complete time-bound obligations and achieve the vision of a world free of landmines by 2025..

We also welcome the Oslo Political Declaration. The recognition given to the importance of integrating a gender and diversity perspective in all aspects of mine action programming and Convention implementation is particularly important, as is the commitment to remove barriers to full, equal and gender-balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings.

We hope that the Political Declaration and Action Plan can bring us closer to our shared goal.

President,

The Ottawa Convention is now more than 20 years old. Ireland remains proud of our leading role in the negotiation of the Convention; and even more so of the fact that there are now 164 States Parties. We are hopeful that this number will continue to increase and that we will, before long, have a universal prohibition of anti-personnel mines.

Ireland has consistently emphasised the clear links between humanitarian de-mining and sustainable development, opening up access to land for economic development, to services, education and employment opportunities. Since 2006 we have provided more than €45 million in funding for humanitarian mine action.

In addition to our direct mine-action work, Ireland is a consistent supporter of the ISU. The ISU plays a vital role supporting the implementation and universalisation of the Convention. We also welcome the tangible contribution by civil society to advance the aims of the Convention.

President,

Universalisation remains a significant challenge. Ireland continues to urge non-party States to adhere to the Convention, and refrain from the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines pending formal adherence. We note and welcome the commitment of certain non-party States in this regard.

Ireland reaffirms the importance of the obligations stemming from Article 5 of the Convention. We welcome the measurable progress which has been achieved in the implementation of Article 5 since the last Review Conference, but recognise that challenges with implementation remain for many States. The issue of new large-scale contamination in some countries is of concern; particularly worrying is the use of improvised anti-personnel mines in the context of urban warfare. Ireland remains committed to continuing work in a cooperative way on this question so that all States Parties can remain in compliance with the Convention.

President,

Clearing landmines not only prevents further human casualties, but also frees entire communities from fear, thus paving the way for reconstruction, development, agricultural production, and business opportunities.

A major achievement of this Convention remains its commitment to victims and survivors. Those affected by landmines include not only the direct victims, but also their families and communities, and all those who live in fear of unexploded landmines. Efforts to provide victim assistance must consist of nationally led processes with the full and effective participation of survivors and affected communities. Victim assistance should take into account the specific needs of those affected, and we are pleased to see the growing recognition of the need for gender- and age-sensitive assistance provision. While we are encouraged by the reported progress on victim assistance since the Third Review Conference, we remain concerned that the number of new victims has increased in recent years. We believe the implementation of the

commitments in the Oslo Action Plan will help to ensure a more effective and sustainable approach to victim assistance.

President,

We are steadfast in our belief that there is a strong power to normative action, and we stand ready to continue our determined efforts to fulfil the aims of the Convention. Ireland is dedicated to sending a powerful global message against the use of these weapons, and to achieving a world free from anti-personnel landmines by 2025, in accordance with the renewed commitments undertaken by us all in the Oslo Action Plan.

Thank you.