

# **Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

**Fourth Review Conference  
Oslo, 26-29 November 2019**

## **Agenda Item 7 a) Universalisation Austria Statement delivered by Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi**

Mr. President,

It is a particular pleasure seeing you chair this meeting. Thank you for a very warm welcome to Oslo – a city that will always have a special place in the history of our Convention. Then, 22 years ago even the greatest optimists would not have believed that the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention would today become one of the most universal disarmament treaties. Since the last Review Conference we were delighted to welcome three new members to the mine ban family: Oman, Sri Lanka and the State of Palestine. This success story is no reason to rest on laurels. It should rather serve as an incentive to redouble our efforts to make further progress on universalization.

The norm against anti-personnel mines shows its effect far beyond the States Parties. Seven states outside the Convention have put moratoria on the use and production of anti-personnel mines. New production has dropped and licit trade of anti-personnel mines remains non-existent. In 2018 only one state has used these horrendous weapons. This is one too many. The increased use by armed non-state actors is an increasing concern. We commend the efforts of the ICRC and Geneva Call to try to convince such groups to end the use of anti-personnel mines. As States Parties it is our obligation to defend the norm and condemn any use of anti-personnel mines in the strongest possible terms.

As mandated by States Parties, during Austria's presidency of the 16MSP I engaged with all States not party and encouraged them to join the benefits of the Convention.

It is always worthwhile to listen to States not yet party engaging with the Convention and outlining their position towards the Convention. While we welcome intermediate steps taken towards accession, let me underline the importance of translating the often tacit respect for the norm into legally binding obligations. Austria reiterates its call upon all States not yet party to join the Convention.

Thus Austria fully supports Chapter III in the Oslo Action Plan, including Action 11 and Action 12. Moreover, Austria wishes to express its appreciation to the Special Envoys H.R.H. Prince Mired and H.R.H. Princess Astrid for their unwavering support for the Convention and their high level engagement. The lobbying of civil society contributes greatly to the universalization efforts of States Parties. Together we will make further progress towards universalization during the next five years. We also commend the actions of the EU and will hear more about the EU's contribution during its side event at 12.30. Austria is of course fully aligned with the EU statement delivered earlier today.