Background
The 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (or Mine Ban Treaty) is proving to be a shining example of humanitarian disarmament, having a real, lasting impact on the ground every day in dozens of states.

More than 80% of the world’s states are on board of the Mine Ban Treaty as of today. Its impact on reducing human suffering and stigmatizing landmines has been clearly felt around the world—not only in the 161 states that have joined the treaty, but also in the small number of those that have not yet joined. The stigma on these weapons holds so strong that most of those remaining outside the Treaty abide by its norms.

Current context
But despite this remarkable progress, over 60 states and areas are still contaminated with landmines, and every day some 12 people are killed or maimed by landmines or explosive remnants of war. This demonstrates that states need to work even harder to...
clear the land of these dangers and to assist survivors and their communities. Furthermore, a tiny number of governments outside of the Treaty are still using antipersonnel landmines, including Myanmar and Syria in 2011–2012, and some very serious allegations of use by states parties (Sudan, Turkey, and Yemen) are still unresolved.

What is needed now?

- An immediate halt to any use of antipersonnel landmines, anywhere;
- That the 36 states that remain outside the Mine Ban Treaty to join without delay;
- For states parties to increase their efforts to comply with all Treaty obligations, especially to clear their land of mines and assist victims; and
- For all states to provide the necessary resources to achieve the Treaty’s goals quickly.

Recommendations for governments

During the UN General Assembly high-level debate and First Committee, governments should:

- Heed the Secretary-General’s call to advance the universal application of the framework of internationally agreed-upon norms and standards, and accede to the Mine Ban Treaty at the annual UN Treaty Event in September 2013.
- Emphasize that the Mine Ban Treaty is one of the most impactful and most universally accepted disarmament treaties.
- Condemn any use of antipersonnel mines, call on public investigation of allegations of use by states parties, and publicize their contribution to the implementation and universalization of the treaty.

Beyond First Committee, all states should:

- Attend the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in Geneva, Switzerland, 2–5 December 2013. They should come prepared with the most recent information on their progress in joining the Treaty or in fulfilling their Treaty obligations.
- Attend the Third Review Conference of the treaty in Maputo, Mozambique, 30 June–4 July 2014. This conference will give all states the opportunity to commit to complete the job of ridding the world of landmines.

However in July 2012 the Foreign Minister of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin said that government forces are no longer using landmines.