Landmines
International Campaign to Ban Landmines

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 states parties of the Mine Ban Treaty as of today. The stigma on the weapon holds so strong that most of those remaining outside the Treaty abide by the ban norm. Many hundreds of square kilometres of land have been cleared of mines, 27 formerly affected countries are now mine-free, and more than 47 million stockpiled landmines have been destroyed in 87 countries. The number of new casualties caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war has dropped dramatically to fewer than 4,000 recorded cases annually.

Current context
Despite this remarkable progress, some 60 states and areas are still contaminated with landmines, and every day civilians are killed or maimed by these weapons. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines is also concerned that a small
number of governments outside the Treaty are still using antipersonnel landmines, including Myanmar and Syria in recent years, and that serious allegations or instances of use by states parties to the Treaty (Sudan, Turkey, and Yemen) are still unresolved. According to media reports, antipersonnel landmines have been seized and used in eastern Ukraine in 2014, although circumstances surrounding use are unclear.

The Maputo+15 Declaration adopted at the Third Review Conference of the Treaty (Mozambique, June 2014) commits states to complete the implementation of their respective time-bound obligations “with the urgency that the completion work requires” and “to the fullest extent possible by 2025.” The Maputo Action Plan provides detailed guidance.

**Recommendations for governments**

**During First Committee:**
- All states should emphasise that the Mine Ban Treaty is one of the most universally accepted disarmament treaties with enormous impact worldwide.
- They should condemn any use of antipersonnel mines and call for public investigation of allegations of use by states parties.
- Delegations should express support for the “completion” goals of the Maputo Review Conference and name their own completion targets.
- States not party should report on progress made towards accession and may want to stress their support for the humanitarian objectives of the Treaty, as many of them do each year.
- All states should vote in favour of the resolution on the Mine Ban Treaty, which provides an important opportunity for states to reaffirm their support for the ban on antipersonnel mines. Each year, a large number of states not party vote in favour of the resolution, in order to demonstrate their support for the Treaty’s humanitarian aims.

**Beyond First Committee:**
- All states must immediately halt any use of antipersonnel landmines, anywhere.
- The 36 states outside the Mine Ban Treaty should join without delay.
- States parties must comply with all Treaty obligations, especially clearing their land of mines and assisting victims.
- All states should provide the necessary resources to achieve the Treaty’s goals quickly.