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 one of the most universally adhered-to international instruments. At the 2016 Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Convention, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan hailed it as “one of the great successes of international diplomacy” and called for “renewed dedication to ending the scourge of anti-personnel mines.”

Current context
States parties to the Mine Ban Treaty have adopted the target date of 2025 for the global elimination of antipersonnel mines. They will strive to universalize the Treaty, complete clearance of mine-contaminated land, destroy all stockpiles, and make assistance to victims sustainable—as
soon as possible and by 2025 at the latest. Chile, as President of the upcoming 15th Meeting of States Parties (15MSP), has announced that the international community has entered “the last stretch” towards full Treaty implementation. This will require sustained support.

Each year, the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor records some 4,000 people injured or killed in explosions of landmines, cluster munition remnants, or other explosive remnants of war. Eighty percent of those are civilians. Fifty-seven states have antipersonnel landmine contamination on their territory, including 33 states parties to the Convention. Some 37 states may own stockpiles of the weapon, including six states parties that have a legal obligation to destroy them. Survivors, their families, and communities must see their rights respected and their needs met. Through the 2014–2019 Maputo Action Plan, states parties to the Mine Ban Treaty have agreed on robust and realistic measures to end the suffering caused by landmines.

Thirty-five states are still outside the Mine Ban Treaty, but the vast majority abide de facto with its core provisions—they do not use, produce, or transfer antipersonnel mines. Each year, half of them vote in favour of the First Committee resolution on the Mine Ban Treaty, thus showing their support for the aim of eliminating antipersonnel mines.

15MSP will take place from 28 November to 2 December 2016 in Santiago, Chile. All states are welcome to participate. The Treaty leadership is made up of the following states until the 15MSP: Algeria, Belgium, Canada, Chile (President), Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, and Zambia.

Recommendations

During First Committee, delegations should:

- Report on measures taken in 2016 to implement the Maputo Action Plan or to otherwise put an end to the suffering caused by landmines;
- Pledge financial support for the implementation of Treaty obligations, including land clearance and assistance to survivors, their families and communities;
- Reiterate that any use of landmines by any actor is unacceptable;
- Report on progress towards joining the Mine Ban Treaty;
- Engage bilaterally in discussions on the universalization or implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty; and
- Vote in favour of the resolution on the Mine Ban Treaty and encourage others, such as regional group members, to do so as well.

Beyond First Committee, states should:

- Adopt laws, regulations, and policies that facilitate Treaty implementation;
- Contribute to discussions on how to ensure sufficient resources and their efficient use to reach the goal of a mine-free world by 2025; and
- Participate in meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty and report on efforts made to eliminate antipersonnel mines.