



Elimination of Anti-Personnel Landmines and their Destruction

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Introduction

First Committee has led UN efforts to against the impacts that anti-personnel mines have on military and civilian populations. In 2000, it was estimated that there were 26,000 people killed by landmines each year, with a stock of 160 million mines held by states. By 2022, these numbers had fallen to 3,693 victims, with 55 million out of the 160 million officially declared mines having been safely disposed of by member states.¹

Despite this achievement, UN control of anti-personnel mines is rapidly deteriorating. New global conflicts are fueling a resurgence of landmine usage, both among member states and non-state actors. In the Russia-Ukraine war, both sides are using these weapons widely. Scared by the risk of invasion from Russia, Eastern European countries are leading a trend to abandon the 1997 Ottawa Treaty banning these weapons.

¹ “Landmine Monitor 2023: Despite rising casualty figures there are some good news.” World Without



What it is all about: Landmine victim in Myanmar

Whether or not the Ottawa Treaty can be saved may be in the hands of First Committee. It is imperative that the First Committee again address the status of anti-personnel mines before more control is lost and the progress made on this issue is reversed.

Anti-personnel mines, often referred to as “landmines,” continue to be an international threat affecting millions of people around the world. In war, they are used in conjunction with other conventional weapons as a silent insurance that harm will come to the enemy where the army cannot always be present.

Anti-personnel mines are defined as explosive charges, manufactured by states or as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by combatants, buried below the surface of the ground that will explode after enough pressure from the weight of vehicles or troops pass over them. They can also be detonated by remote control, or after a timed fuse triggers an

Mines.
<https://www.wom.ch/en/news/current/landmine-monitor-2023>

explosion.² The intention behind these weapons is to disrupt or prevent attacks, either to slow down an advance or deter movement if an area is known to be mined.³

While anti-personnel landmines are forbidden by the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, larger landmines for use against vehicles, and naval (anti-ship) mines, are permitted.

The key to the anti-personnel min problem is they last a long time, decades often. The danger posed by anti-personnel mines persists long after a conflict stops. When guns fall silent and armies leave the field, landmines often remain buried and still active just under the ground. Civilian populations suffer the consequences when mines inflict death or injury on people who are trying to rebuild their lives after war.

According to the annual Landmine Monitor, “in 2023 alone, 5,757 casualties were reported from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), with 3,331 injuries and 2,426 deaths. Civilians accounted for a staggering 84% of these casualties, with children comprising one-third of the victims.”⁴

These statistics show the rising trend of anti-personnel mine casualties since the total number of victims in 2021 was 3,693 and increasing to 4,710 in 2022, with 85% being civilians, at least half of the victims being children.⁵ The funding for producing landmines has also amplified in recent years. The 2024 Landmine and Cluster Munition Report found that, “increase in global funding for mine action surpassed \$1 billion for

the first time. This is a 12% increase (\$112.1 million) from 2022.”⁶



Types of anti-personnel land mines found in one conflict area

New conflicts erupting throughout the world are responsible for the resurgence of anti-personnel mine production and casualties. While member states like Angola, Azerbaijan Cambodia, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, and their border regions, have long-standing issues with landmine

² “Mine, Weapon.”

<https://www.britannica.com/technology/mine-weapon>

³ “Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.”

https://www.metrodetroitmun.org/uploads/7/6/4/9/76499755/landmines_bg.pdf

⁴ “The Global State of Landmines: Insights from the 2024 Landmine Monitor.” <https://apopo.org/global-landmine-crisis-landmine-monitor-2024/?v=0b3b97fa6688>

⁵ “Landmine Monitor 2023: Despite rising casualty figures there are some good news.” World Without Mines.

<https://www.wom.ch/en/news/current/landmine-monitor-2023>

⁶ “International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Landmine Monitor 2024 (Geneva: ICBL-CMC, November 2024). <https://www.the-monitor.org/api/assets/reports/Landmine-Monitors/LMM2024/Downloads/Landmine-Monitor-2024-Final-Web.pdf>

contamination,⁷ the civil war in Myanmar has seen a significant rise in the new employment of mines.⁸ Likewise, the civil war in Sudan and other conflicts in Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Gaza all feature the use of mines at a growing rate.⁹

Above all other present conflicts, the war in Ukraine is driving the popularity of mines. The 2022 Russian invasion has pushed Ukraine to defend itself by any means available, including landmines. A 2025 report concluded that Ukraine had become the most mined country in the world.¹⁰ Both sides have been planting mines throughout the warzone to gain an advantage over the other. The ongoing war in Europe has led neighboring states to fear for their own security amid Russian aggression.

This fear has led Ukraine, Finland, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to announce plans to officially withdraw from UN agreements to outlaw the use of landmines;¹¹ the details of said agreements follow below. Additionally, new arms trade networks have been established to supply the demand for mines expressed by these states.¹²



The extent of landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination across Ukraine¹³

Conflicts and fears over future conflicts are threatening to undo the success of UN anti-personnel mine control efforts. The proliferating trend of landmines stands in contrast to the mission of the First Committee. It is no easy task, but the First Committee at ODUMUNC 2026 must collaborate to find solutions to the growing threat that landmines pose to global security.

⁷ “The Global State of Landmines: Insights from the 2024 Landmine Monitor.” <https://apopo.org/global-landmine-crisis-landmine-monitor-2024/?v=0b3b97fa6688>

⁸ “Myanmar Landmine & Explosive Ordinance Incident Information (2024).” UNICEF. https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/media/11556/file/Myanmar%20Landmine%20and%20ERW%20Incident%20Information_EN_2024Q4.pdf.pdf

⁹ Bociaga, Robert. “Sudan Conflict Raises Familiar Specter of a Landmine-Contaminated Wasteland. Arab News.” <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2450401/middle-east>

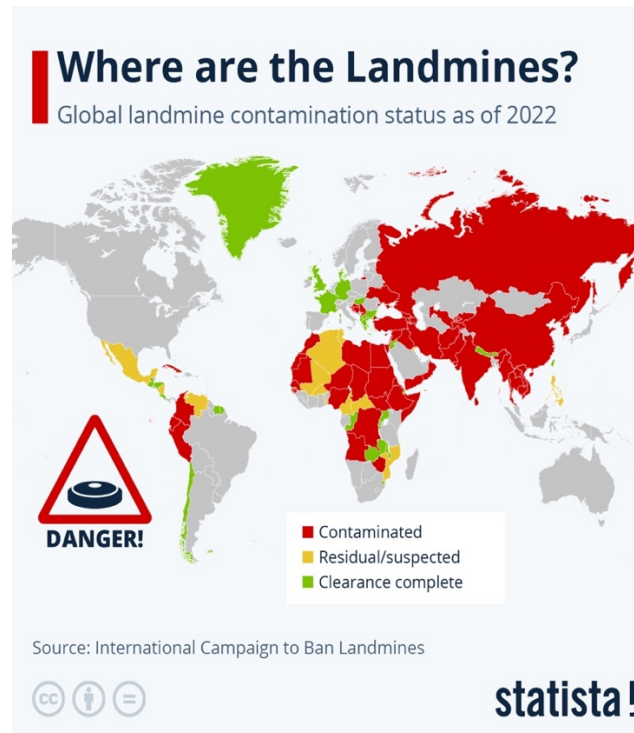
¹⁰ “Which countries are quitting a key landmine treaty and why?” Reuters, 30 June 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/which-countries-are-quitting-key-landmine-treaty-why-2025-04-04/>

¹¹ Otis, Daniel. “Ukraine and five other countries leaving Canada-led treaty that banned landmines.” CYV News, 7 July 2025,

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/article/canada-was-a-leader-in-the-landmine-ban-treaty-but-now-six-countries-are-withdrawing/>

¹² Mutalov, Doniyor. “U.S. to Supply Landmines to Ukraine.” *Arms Control Today*, December 2024. <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2024-12/news/us-supply-landmines-ukraine>

¹³ Burgess, Annika. “Landmines, Booby Traps, and Tripwires-The Hidden Threats Covering One-Third of Ukraine.” ABC News, June 16, 2023. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-17/ukraine-landmines-booby-traps-trip-wires-demining-mine-clearing/102468924>



Background

The first description of explosive landmines dates back to the 1700s. H. Frieher von Flemming, a German historian, described early experimental mines as consisting of, “a ceramic container with glass and metal fragments embedded in the clay” that would be detonated by pressure sensitivity.¹⁴

Landmines were first tested in combat during the American Civil War. The armies of the

Confederate States of America turned to using mines to compensate for its lack of strength compared to U.S. armies.¹⁵ General George McClellan, Commanding General of the U.S. Army, described the use of mines as, “The rebels have been guilty of the most murderous and barbarous conduct in placing torpedoes within the abandoned works near wells and springs, and near flag-staffs, magazines, and telegraph offices, in carpet-bags, barrels of flour, etc.,”¹⁶ Landmines inflicted both physical harm and psychological fear as soldiers could never know where or when they may encounter them.

The British learned from the American Civil War and used mines during the Mahdist war (1881-1899) in Ottoman controlled Egypt. More famously, mines were a staple weapon of both World Wars, with one statistic reporting that the, “U.S. Army in Europe recorded that mines were responsible for 2.5 percent of combat fatalities and for 20.7 percent of tank losses.”¹⁷

Landmines were continuously used through civil wars, wars of independence, and regional conflicts throughout the rest of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Attempts to control conventional combustion weapons, as opposed to chemical, biological, or nuclear ones, have existed since the UN’s founding. In 1946, the General Assembly passed a resolution suggesting that the Security Council establish a commission on the “general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces.”¹⁸ The Security Council followed through with the GA’s recommendation with a

¹⁴ Suci, Peter. “The History of Land Mines: A Weapon that Won’t Go Away.” *The National Interest*, February 17, 2021. <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/history-land-mines-weapon-wont-go-away-178286>

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Waters, W. Davis. “Deception Is the Art of War”: Gabriel J. Rains, Torpedo Specialist of the Confederacy.” *The North Carolina Historical Review* 66, no. 1 (1989): 29–60. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23520746>

¹⁷ Vannoy, Alan. “The Teller Mine and other German WWII Land Mines: The Hidden Danger.” *Warfare History Network*, January 2010. <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/the-teller-mine-and-other-german-wwii-land-mines-the-hidden-danger/>

¹⁸ A/RES/41 (I) 14 Dec. 1946 *Principles governing the general regulation and reduction of armaments*. https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/decad248.as

resolution to create the Commission on Conventional Armaments, with the aim of regulating and/or reducing conventional weapons.¹⁹ Due to Cold War politics, the Commission was dissolved by the early 1950s when SC members could not come to agreement on the group's aims.

Concerned with asymmetrical warfare tactics and the development of more destructive forms of weaponry, another attempt to regulate and reduce conventional weapons was made by 1980. The *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects*, also known as the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* (CCW/CCWC) became effective through the UN Secretary-General office on December 2, 1983.²⁰

In the years that followed, protocols were added to cover more types of weapons such as laser or incendiary. In 1996, the *Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Mines, Booby-Traps, and Other Devices* (Protocol II) was added to the CCW.²¹ Protocol II made strides to restrict landmine usage, and for militaries to remove their mines after conflict had concluded. However, international advocacy groups and some member states were concerned that Protocol II was not restrictive enough.

Between 1996 and 1997, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the

International Committee of the Red Cross worked with member states to press for a more comprehensive treaty to ban anti-personnel mines.

Negotiations over a landmine ban treaty began in Oslo, Norway in September 1997 that saw broad member state support. In Ottawa, Canada, on December 3-4, 1997, the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* (known as the Ottawa Treaty or Mine Ban Treaty) was signed.²²

The Ottawa Treaty represents a significant step in the control of landmines since it is a legally binding treaty that seeks the total elimination of the use of mines in war, and the destruction of the global stockpile of mines.

Since the Ottawa Treaty became law on March 1, 1999, yearly conferences discussing signatory implementation have occurred, and GA resolutions reaffirming the UN's commitment to the treaty are passed annually, the most recent one being on 11 October 2024.²³ Features of the Ottawa Treaty are presented below.

The Ottawa Treaty

Article 1, General obligations

¹⁹ S/RES/18. Armaments: Regulation and Reduction. [https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/18\(1947\)](https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/18(1947))

²⁰ Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/external/doc/en/assets/files/other/icrc_002_0811.pdf

²¹ Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Mines, Booby-Traps, and Other Devices. <https://geneva-s3.unoda.org/static-unoda-site/pages/templates/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/PROTOCOL%2BII.pdf>

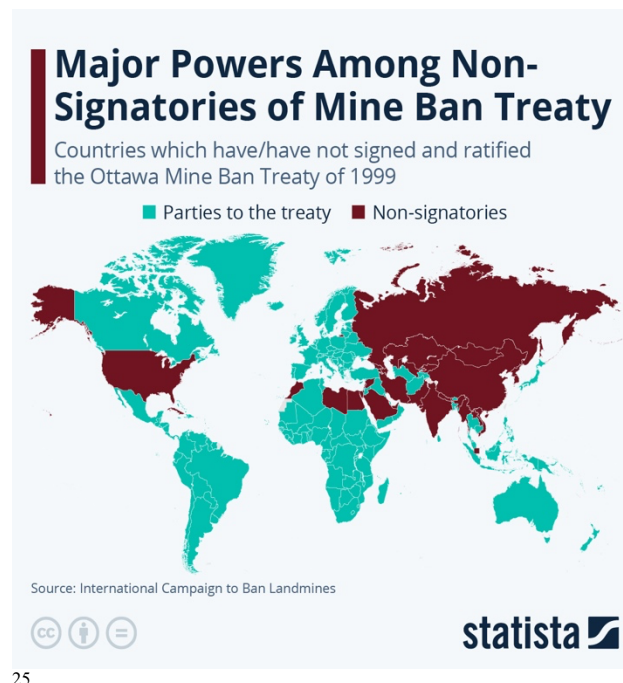
²² Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/the-convention/history-and-text>

²³ A/C.1/79/L.30. General and complete disarmament: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com24/resolutions/L30.pdf>

1. Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances:

- a) To use anti-personnel mines;
- b) To develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, anti- personnel mines;
- c) To assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention.

2. Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.²⁴



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²⁴ Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/the-convention/history-and-text>

²⁵ Buchholz, Katharina. "Major Powers Among Non-Signatories of Mine Ban Treaty." Statista, March 1,

Article 5, Destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas

1. Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.

2. Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which antipersonnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all antipersonnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The marking shall at least be to the standards set out in the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.²⁶

Article 20, Duration and withdrawal

1. This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

2. Each State Party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this

2024. <https://www.statista.com/chart/31838/mine-ban-treaty-countries/>

²⁶ Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/the-convention/history-and-text>

Convention. It shall give notice of such withdrawal to all other States Parties, to the Depositary and to the United Nations Security Council. Such instrument of withdrawal shall include a full explanation of the reasons motivating this withdrawal.

3. Such withdrawal shall only take effect six months after the receipt of the instrument of withdrawal by the Depositary. If, however, on the expiry of that six- month period, the withdrawing State Party is engaged in an armed conflict, the withdrawal shall not take effect before the end of the armed conflict.

4. The withdrawal of a State Party from this Convention shall not in any way affect the duty of States to continue fulfilling the obligations assumed under any relevant rules of international law.²⁷

In addition to annual meetings, five review conferences have been held to assess the overall status of treaty and its implementation. The most recent conference occurred on November 25-29, 2024, in Angkor, Cambodia. The fifth conference has not yet published its findings, but highlights from four conferences with published findings follows:

Review Conference 1: November 29-December 3, 2004, Nairobi, Kenya.

At its fourth and fifth plenary meetings, the conference considered a plan of action, APLC/CONF/2004/L.4/Rev.1, to overcome challenges that remain in ending for all people for all time, the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. The States Parties concluded inter alia for the period 2005-2009:

(1) that the pursuit of universal adherence to the Convention will remain an important object of cooperation among States Parties;

(2) that they would ensure the expeditious and timely destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under their or jurisdiction or control;

(3) that successfully meeting deadlines for clearing mined areas will be the most significant challenge to be addressed during this period and will require intensive efforts by mine-affected States Parties and those in a position to assist them;

(4) that consistent with the Convention's vital promise to mine victims, the States parties will enhance care, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts;

(5) that fulfilling their obligations will require substantial political, financial and material commitments;

(6) that transparency and the effective information exchange will be crucial to fulfilling their obligations;

(7) that they will continue to be guided by the knowledge that individually and collectively they are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Convention; and,

(8) that their implementation mechanisms will remain important, particularly as key means to implement the Nairobi Action Plan.²⁸

Review Conference 2: November 29-December 4, 2009, Cartagena, Colombia.

Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ APLC/CONF/2004/5. First 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, February 9, 2005.

https://www.nairobisummit.org/fileadmin/APMBC-RC1/documents/final_report/RC_Final_Report_en.pdf

4. The destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines remains one of the Convention's great successes. More than 80 percent of the world's States no longer possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the States Parties together have destroyed more than 42.3 million mines. While implementation of the obligation to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines as soon as possible remains a great achievement, the matter of stockpile destruction also persists as one of the Convention's most complex remaining challenges.²⁹

Review Conference 3: June 23-27, 2014, Maputo, Mozambique.

3. While recognising the tremendous progress already achieved, and in order to continue pursuing universal adherence to the Convention and acceptance of its norms, the States Parties will take the following actions:

(a) The States Parties will promote formal adherence to the Convention by States not party to the Convention, regularly inviting them to participate in the Convention's meetings and inform States Parties of practical steps taken, such as formalized commitments not to use, produce or transfer anti-personnel mines, or to destroy stockpiles. Third 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

(b) The States Parties will continue to promote universal observance of the Convention's norms, condemn violations of these norms and take appropriate steps to end the use, stockpiling,

production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including by armed non-State actors.

(c) The States Parties will coordinate their actions to promote the Convention, including actions taken at a high level, through bilateral contacts and in multilateral fora, and request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary, to continue promoting universalization by inviting States not party to join the Convention as soon as possible.

(d) Recalling that in Maputo in 1999, the States Parties formally declared that "as a community dedicated to seeing an end to the use of anti-personnel mines, our assistance and cooperation will flow primarily to those who have foresworn the use of these weapons forever through adherence to and implementation of the Convention," State Parties in promoting the Convention will communicate that they will give specific consideration to those States that have committed to these principles, when considering giving assistance to States not party to the Convention, taking into account that each country will provide assistance on the basis of its own priorities and principles, including in emergency situations³⁰

Review Conference 4: November 25-29, 2019, Oslo, Norway.

Oslo declaration (as adopted at the final plenary meeting on 29 November 2019)

1. We, the 164 States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, having met at the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo in November 2019, express our firm commitment to

²⁹ APLC/CONF/2009/9. Second 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, June 17, 2005.

<https://www.cartagenasummit.org/fileadmin/APMBC-RC2/2RC-FinalReport-17June2010.pdf>

³⁰ APLC/CONF/2014/WP.5. Third 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, June 16, 2014.

https://www.maputoreviewconference.org/fileadmin/APMBC-RC3/Maputo_Action_Plan.pdf

end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. We are proud of the tremendous progress we have made in protecting women, girls, boys and men from the threat and use of anti-personnel mines to date. We now commit to strengthening our efforts in order to achieve our common goals of a mine-free world and the full and equal inclusion of survivors and victims.

2. The norms established by the Convention are strong and we pledge to promote and defend them. We condemn the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor and will continue to spare no effort to universalise the Convention. We base our efforts on the respect for our obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law.

3. Since the entry into force of the Convention 20 years ago, we have destroyed more than 52 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines and 31 of us have completed our mine clearance obligations. We have reduced the risk of further humanitarian harm, we have released vast areas of land to communities for productive use, and we have made progress in ensuring victims and survivors lead dignified lives.

4. The successful implementation of the Convention has been underpinned by a unique spirit of cooperation and transparency, including strong partnerships with international organisations and civil society. We remain committed to continue fostering and strengthening these partnerships to achieve our common goals.

*5. While we are proud of our joint achievements, many challenges remain. Contamination by anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature, continues to pose a threat to human life and impede sustainable development.*³¹

Member State Positions

China has ratified the CCW and is a signatory to Protocol II, but has yet to ratify the Ottawa Treaty. China has followed through with its commits by limiting the production and use of landmines, but has recently changed its stance. China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is now arguing that "mines are crucial for protecting border regions and strategic assets." Particularly near Taiwan and the Himalayas, China is following the global trend to reimplement the use of landmines.³²

The **European Union** has most of its members as signatories to the CCW and Ottawa Treaty. The EU upholds humanitarian values for military and civilian populations through the banning of landmines and the destruction of stockpiles. Currently, EU policy on landmines is fracturing. The member states of Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland that have previously ratified the Ottawa Treaty are in the process from withdrawing from it. Citing Russian aggression, these EU members that border Russia are defecting from EU policy to pursue landmines once again.³³

³¹ APLC/CONF/2019/5. 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, January 22, 2020. <https://www.osloreviewconference.org/fileadmin/AP-MBC-RC4/Fourth-Review-Conference/Oslo-Review-Conference-final-report-en.pdf>

³² "China's Military Shifts Stance on Land Mines, Sparking Global Debate." The Stewardship Report, July 7, 2025. <https://stewardshipreport.org/chinas-military-shifts-stance-on-land-mines-sparking-global-debate/>

³³ Taslidžan, Alma. "Op-ed: Landmines Imperial the EU's Moral Compass." The Parliament, June 4, 2025.

The **Non-Aligned Movement** has a mixed response to the banning of landmines. Most non-aligned states in South America and Africa are signatories or have ratified the Ottawa Treaty while several members in Asia have not. On the CCW, the opposite is true with Asian and South American members joining, with most African States abstaining. Non-aligned members share a history of struggles against colonial rule. They remain the group of states most affected by the abandonment of landmines by armies after these wars ended.³⁴

The **Russian Federation** has ratified the CCW and Protocol II, but not the Ottawa Treaty. Suspicions that Russia is employing or has employed anti-personnel mines in its war with Ukraine are rampant, with Amnesty International noting the number of landmine victims in Ukraine is centered around regions that Russia controls.³⁵ Russia is not bound by the Ottawa Treaty's moratorium on landmines and does retain a large stockpile.

Ukraine, like other states that border Russia, is working on withdrawing from the Ottawa Treaty. Due to the ongoing war with Russia, Ukraine is turning to landmines to increase its own tactical advantage. The Ukraine foreign affairs ministry released a statement that says, "Russia's use of anti-personnel mines has created an asymmetric advantage for the aggressor."³⁶ Ukraine remains a ratifier of the CCW and Protocol II.

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/news/article/opened-landmines-imperil-the-eus-moral-compass>

³⁴ History of NAM. <https://www.nam-pn.org/history>

³⁵ "Ukraine/Russia: Investigate Use of Anti-Personnel Mines Left after Russian Occupation as Possible War Crimes." Amnesty International, July 26, 2024.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/07/ukraine-russia-investigate-use-of-anti-personnel-mines-left-after-russian-occupation-as-possible-war-crimes/>

³⁶ "Ukraine on Track to Withdraw from Ottawa Convention Banning Anti-Personnel Mines." CBC, June 29, 2025.

The **United Kingdom** remains a supporter of all landmine control and ban treaties. However, due to the global trends on mines, the U.K. is questioning its commitment to them. Former U.K. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace has called landmine treaties "outdated" and that Russian aggression and the potential for a U.S. withdraw from security commitments should compel the U.K. to reevaluate its position to safeguard its own national security.³⁷

The **United States** Supports the CCW and Protocol II, but has not ratified the Ottawa Treaty. In 2022, the U.S. is estimated to possess a stockpile of three million anti-personnel mines, but that it would not develop, produce, or export them anywhere outside of the Korean Peninsula. By 2024, this policy has changed as the U.S. has openly and publicly supplied Ukraine with landmines to counter Russia. The U.S. has stated that it will not interfere with Ottawa Treaty commitments by other states, but also that is not bound by them.³⁸

Some Possible Proposals for Action

The Member States of the General Assembly and its Committees are free to act as they will. While the GA shows great respect to its resolution and treaty history, its Members, as sovereign states, are free to take any action they believe suitable. They can demand the

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ukraine-on-track-to-withdraw-from-ottawa-convention-banning-anti-personnel-mines-1.7573868>

³⁷ Harding, Thomas. "Britain Urged to Join Allies in Pulling Out of Landmine Treaty." The National, March 25, 2025.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/europe/2025/03/25/britain-urged-to-pull-out-of-landmine-treaty-to-meet-russia-threat/>

³⁸ "U.S. Anti-Personnel Landmine Use Policy." Library of Congress, December 9, 2024.

<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11440>

international community reaffirm its commitment to the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, or encourage measures that allow each state to act in ways that undermines global solidarity. Some possible proposals for consideration include:

1. Continue to Press the Issue. One of the greatest strengths of the General Assembly is for member states to continually bring attention to global issues. With commitments to anti-personnel mine control and destruction unraveling, this issue needs to be brought up more than once per year. April 4 is the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The First Committee can propose more mine related awareness days to give this topic more attention.³⁹

2. Involve the Security Council. Anti-personnel mines are becoming an issue that threatens global security. The General Assembly should not have to bear the weight of security burdens alone. The Security Council's mandate is to address security and any proliferations of weapons that threaten it. Just as in 1946 when the GA called for the SC to become involved in conventional arms control, the First Committee can again call for SC involvement. If, due to the politics of the SC, such a call fails, it can be repeated again until the SC adopts it.

3. Include the Secretary-General. The UN Secretariat, while having a limited role in the UN Charter, can provide tremendous assistance in raising awareness of the anti-personnel mines issue. The Secretary-General can commission inquiries and serve as an intermediary between states banning landmines and those that are pursuing them.

4. Adapt Treaties for Modern Trends. New conventions besides the CCW and Ottawa Treaty are not necessary. However, proposals to amend them, especially the CCW, are possible.

If states are leaving existing landmine controls, altering the conventions to only cover certain types of mines is possible. States using conventional explosive mines may be inevitable, but mines using more advanced technology or mines that evade detection can still be controlled. Just because states are leaving these conventions does not mean that all types of mines should be permissible. The First Committee can still attempt to curtail the use of more advanced mines to minimize the future impact they may have on the goals of universal global values.

5. Leave the issue to the individual member States. The General Assembly has the ability to abandon its precedents for promoting the Ottawa Treaty. Instead it can leave choices up to each individual Member States. This would be a radical departure, abandoning the goal of global action based on universal values. Such an approach will be strongly opposed by countries like China, which are committed to universal values, albeit while tolerating defection by allies like Russia in its war with Ukraine.

6. Create alternative ways to assure the security of countries, so they can remain within the Ottawa Treaty and its ban on anti-personnel landmines. Possibilities might include measures to ensure the sanctity of borders, security guarantees from other states, and alternative weapons. Such proposals might be welcomed by wavering states, but seem likely to be opposed by challengers like Russia and others with an eye on neighboring territory.

³⁹ "International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action." United Nations.

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