

On the occasion of the International Day on Mine Awareness and Mine Action Assistance on 4 April and the 28th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers, 9-11 April 2025

Joint Message by Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Switzerland, Thailand

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Cluster Munition Convention are global success stories. They have greatly benefitted many communities affected by armed conflict around the world, contributed by saving lives and limbs, to protecting civilians and reducing harm. The Conventions have been instrumental for the clearance of hundreds of square kilometres of contaminated land, the destruction of items of unexploded remnants, the implementation of risk education and assistance to victims, and for mobilizing innovative schemes for cooperation and assistance.

We reiterate our countries' unwavering commitment to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

The international community came together to prohibit anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions through international Conventions because of their indiscriminate effects and their short and long term humanitarian consequences that outweigh any military utility of these weapons.

In light of recent developments, we unequivocally commit to uphold the Conventions, which apply to us.

We call on all States to collectively progress towards a world free of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions including by acceding to the Conventions, where possible, without delay and we call on all States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Cluster Munitions Convention to collectively promote the Conventions. Let us uphold, protect, and advance the Conventions

We express our appreciation and support to survivors and their representative organizations, to humanitarian actors and to all stakeholders that have put their tireless efforts into mine action. We must remember that the collective effort that led to the Conventions was underpinned by the need to fulfill the rights and meet the needs of survivors, affected families and communities, and to protect future generations.