

General Statement Austria
18th Meeting of States Parties
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Austria. Austria fully aligns herself with the Statement delivered by the European Union in this debate.

Let me offer a few additional remarks from a national perspective:

To begin with we would like to thank Ambassador Mohammed and the ISU for smoothly preparing the 18th Meeting of States Parties despite the difficult circumstances due to COVID 19 and all its implications.

Furthermore we would like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance and the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for their work and continuous efforts.

A final thank you we would like to extend to the fellow members in the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for the excellent cooperation.

Since its early days, Austria has been a staunch supporter of this Convention and we will continue to support its full implementation. The Fourth Review Conference in Oslo last year, was a great success and an important milestone for the global ban on anti-personnel mines and an important step towards the achievement of its ultimate goal of a world without anti-personnel mines.

Unfortunately the numbers of casualties and injuries remained high in 2019, as the Landmine Monitor Report 2020, which was published only last week, reports. Austria therefore encourages all States Parties to intensify their efforts to complete their time-bound obligations as soon as possible, and to the fullest extent possible and to fulfil their financial obligations to the Convention in full and on time.

Thank you, Mr President