

Check against delivery

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and
Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention

25 May 2012



Statement by AUSTRIA

Ms. Caroline Wörgötter

Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Austria in Geneva

Austria remains deeply concerned about recent reports revealing allegations of new use of anti-personnel mines during recent months.

We call on all States facing allegations of use to fully investigate these allegations and to clarify the matter in a transparent way as well as to proceed urgently with clearance of any land that may be contaminated in order to avoid any further casualties resulting from the use of these inhuman weapons and to do their utmost to ensure that they are never used again.

The strength and effectiveness of the norm against anti-personnel mines goes much beyond the membership of the Convention. It has contributed to firmly anchoring humanitarian considerations in the disarmament context. Beyond the legal norm contained in the Convention, the use of anti-personnel mines has been stigmatized. The continued use of anti-personnel mines highlights the need to fully universalize this norm of international humanitarian law.

Austria warmly welcomes the outstanding efforts undertaken by the President of the 11 MSP, H.E. Prak Sokhonn of Cambodia, by the Convention's Special Envoy, His Royal Highness Prince Al-Hussein of Jordan, by the Coordinator as well as the Contact Group on universalization. We further highly commend the work of civil society, and in particular ICBL-CMC, and international organizations, in particular the ICRC, in this area. These partnerships constitute a key factor of success in this process.

Austria remains committed to use all appropriate opportunities at bilateral level as well as in multi-lateral settings in order to promote this Convention.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.