



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties**

**Statement by New Zealand  
30 November 2015**

New Zealand would like to record its sincere thanks to the Chair, H.E. Ambassador, Bertrand de Crombrughe, Permanent Representative of Belgium for his stewardship of the Convention this past year. We wish to assure you of New Zealand's full support this week as you carry out your important work.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to former Director of the Implementation Support Unit Mr Kerry Brinkert, who has guided the work of our Convention so ably over the past 14 years.

New Zealand recognises the highly important impact that this Convention has had since it opened for signature in 1997. The Convention has been and will remain a landmark in international humanitarian law. It embodies a thoroughly modern approach to security: one that, rightly, places great emphasis on the value of human life and livelihoods.

New Zealand continues to condemn in the strongest terms any use of anti-personnel landmines by anyone, anywhere. We are deeply disappointed at reports of landmine use over the last year both by States outside this Convention and by non-State actors.

New Zealand remains a firm supporter of the continuing work to universalise this most important Convention. We are pleased that 162 States Parties have now joined, and we continue to call on those remaining States who have not yet joined to do so without further delay.

New Zealand would like to extend special congratulations to two members of our Convention family who have reached very important milestones this year – Finland for completing destruction of its stockpile of anti-personnel landmines, and Mozambique for the marvellous achievement of completing clearance of all contaminated areas.

The threat or perceived threat of unexploded anti-personnel landmines can create a persistent sense of insecurity and fear in a community. It can prevent people accessing agricultural land and water, and can stop them from travelling freely to attend schools and religious centres. Success in clearing contaminated land can help people to re-establish their livelihoods. It is for these reasons that New Zealand is pleased to continue to provide core funding to organisations which undertake essential mine action related activities including UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross. We also support specific clearance projects in Palestine and Lao PDR.

Full and effective implementation of the Convention is crucial in order to protect civilians from the devastating impact of anti-personnel landmines. New Zealand looks forward to our work together this week to assess what we must do to fulfil the commitments of the Maputo Action Plan and to enable the goal of ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines by 2025 to be met. In doing so we consider it imperative that any financial decisions we adopt here help contribute to this goal, including by supporting the ISU in its provision of implementation assistance to States Parties.