

Press Release



OSCE Members called to join the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Vienna, 29 June 2011 – A call has been made for all European and Central Asian States to join the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or *Ottawa* Convention. The appeal was made today at the headquarters of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) by H.E. Gazmend Turdiu, the senior Albanian diplomat currently presiding over the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

“I call upon the 10 OSCE Member States that have not yet joined our humanitarian movement to do so as soon as possible,” said Mr. Turdiu, who addressed the 650th plenary meeting of the OSCE’s Forum for Security and Cooperation. While 46 OSCE Member States are parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the following 10 are not: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

“In keeping with the commitments made by States Parties at the landmark 2009 *Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World*, I would like to seize this opportunity to promote ratification of and accession to the Convention,” said Mr. Turdiu.

Eliminating anti-personnel landmines makes borders more secure, not less

Since 2003, the OSCE has been part of global efforts to assist States in fulfilling their Convention obligations through its mine action programme in Tajikistan. Beyond Tajikistan the OSCE, in partnership with the Slovenian-based International Trust Fund, has facilitated cooperation to address landmine challenges through Central Asia.

“I would also like to acknowledge the instrumental role of the OSCE in seeking to enhance border security through the OSCE Border Management Staff College,” said Mr. Turdiu. “As parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, we have accepted that borders become actually more secure as opposed to less secure, through the elimination of anti-personnel mines.”

“In many regions, the top perceived barrier to accession appears to be related to border security,” added Mr. Turdiu. “However, 156 States of the world have accepted that they will ensure State sovereignty and the security of borders without anti-personnel mines. I encourage OSCE Member States that are not yet parties to the Convention to consult with those states that have already joined, so that they can learn from our experiences”.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

The AP Mine Ban Convention was adopted in Oslo in 1997 and was opened for signature in Ottawa the same year; it entered into force in 1999.

AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

To date 156 States are parties to the Convention, 152 of them now no longer hold stocks; almost 44 million mines have been destroyed by the States Parties. The vast majority of these mines – more than 37 million – have been destroyed by 33 OSCE Member States.

34 of 50 States that at one time manufactured anti-personnel mines are now bound by the Convention's ban on production. Most other parties have put in place moratoria on production and / or transfers of landmines.

Demining has resulted in millions of square metres of once dangerous land being released for normal human activity.

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For more information, interviews or information regarding the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention please email: ISU@APMineBanConvention.org. Connect with the Convention through our [website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).