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## Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

*Supporting a mine-free world: Universalization and implementation of  
the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*

Monday, 29 November, 11:30 – 13:00  
Hall Berlin, 1st floor, Palacio Municipal (IFEMA)

### Concept note

#### Background

In 1997 States adopted the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction as a comprehensive framework to “put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines”. Since the adoption of the Convention significant progress has been made in, amongst other, universalizing the norms, reducing the number of casualties, supporting mine survivors, returning previously contaminated land to productive use by communities and reducing the number of global stockpiles.

At the Convention’s Fourth Review Conference in 2019 the States Parties adopted the Oslo Action Plan 2020-2024 to support the Convention’s Implementation. While recognizing the progress made since the entry into force of the Convention, the States Parties also acknowledged that a number of challenges persisted in its implementation and manifested their deep concern by the rise in the number of casualties. The Landmine Monitor reported that 2020 was the sixth year in a row with high numbers of recorded casualties due to mines, including improvised types, as well as cluster munition remnants and other explosive remnants of war with at least 7,073 recorded casualties (2,492 people were killed and 4,561 people were injured, while the survival status was unknown for 20 casualties), 80 per cent of whom were civilians with half of them being children.

In addition to an increase in the number of casualties since the Convention entered into force, the States Parties recognized that its implementation in some areas had been stalled. What is required in these areas is transparent reporting, the adoption of national implementation legislation, the destruction of stockpiles, and the clearance of contaminated land, among others. If the States Parties are to meet their aspirations and goals to the fullest by 2025 they must focus their attention and intensify their efforts with urgency within the determined time-limits.

#### Objective

The objective of the panel is to raise awareness of the status and challenges faced by the States Parties to the Convention, the threat of new contamination, and the support parliamentarians can provide to the Convention implementation, including in fostering a conducive implementation environment, for example, through advocacy and raising of awareness of the status of their respective States in the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, their outstanding commitments and opportunities to strengthen this implementation.

### **Participants**

Moderator:

**Ms. Ágnes Vadai**, Chair of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, MP (Hungary)

Panellists:

- **Mr. Juan Carlos Ruan**, Director, Implementation Support Unit, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
- **Ms. Josephine Dresner**, International Policy and Partnerships Director, Mines Advisory Group
- **Ms. Sarah Ménard April**, Legal Adviser, Advisory Services on IHL, International Committee of the Red Cross

### **Proceedings**

Due to a limited number of seats in the room, each participant wishing to contribute after the panellists' interventions will have 2 minutes for a spontaneous oral statement from Hall Amsterdam which will be remotely connected to Hall Berlin.