



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

**Saving lives:**  
**Towards the full implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**  
**Online global dialogue for Members of Parliament**  
*Tuesday, 30 May 2023, 14:00-15:30 CEST*

### Background

Anti-personnel mines are a devastating weapon. They destroy lives indiscriminately, during conflict and long after it has ended. The majority of those affected are civilians, innocent men and women who as a result find their lives completely transformed, by disability, insecurity and inability to live “normally”, such as being able to walk to school or cultivate their land without fear of stepping on a mine.

The 1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is the cornerstone of international efforts to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. This historical instrument was made possible through a unique partnership between States, civil society, and regional and international organizations including the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which welcomed its adoption and encouraged its Members to promote its early ratification and entry into force. To date, a total of 164 States Parties have committed to the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention's provisions, including prohibiting the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel mines, and ensuring their destruction.

While commendable progress has been made in the Convention's implementation since its entry into force, challenges remain. Unfortunately, anti-personnel mines, some of which were laid decades ago, continue to cause thousands of civilian casualties each year, while new and protracted conflicts have seen an increase in the use of improvised anti-personnel mines by armed non-State actors, increasing the scope of the challenge and the threat to civilian populations in many regions of the world. Additionally, in recent years, the use of anti-personnel mines by a handful of States, with disastrous consequences, has further highlighted the need to prioritize universalization efforts and to strengthen this global norm against the use of anti-personnel mines.

As is often the case, the initial enthusiasm behind implementation efforts has waned in the 24 years since the Convention entered into force on 1 March 1999. The Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, scheduled for 25–29 November 2024, will provide a unique opportunity to once again place the issue of anti-personnel mines high on national agendas and to stimulate areas of implementation that have seen little progress in recent years, particularly those related to universalization and the national implementation measures provided for under Article 9 of the Convention.

In this regard, the IPU and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), which serves as the secretariat for the Convention, will host a Global Dialogue for Members of Parliament to raise awareness about the status and challenges of the Convention and to discuss how parliamentarians can best support its implementation in the lead-up to the Fifth Review Conference.

### Objectives

The objectives of the Global Dialogue are to:

- Raise awareness about the Convention, its status of implementation and remaining challenges
- Provide information on the status of universalization and the importance of national implementation measures (Article 9)

- Provide information on available tools and support
- Provide an opportunity for MPs to exchange information and ask questions on matters related to universalization and Article 9
- Discuss the potential role that MPs could play in promoting universalization and national implementation measures
- Identify opportunities for action by MPs

**The global dialogue will be chaired by:** *Mr. J. Kiarie, President of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, MP (Kenya)*

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## Agenda

**Opening remarks**

**Keynote address**

**How to achieve effective implementation of the Convention?**

**Overall challenges with regard to implementation**

Presentation by the Implementation Support Unit

**National initiatives** for effective implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and recent establishment of National Implementation Measures

**Support for universalization and national implementation of the Convention**

Presentation by the ICRC

*Presentations will be followed by a discussion with participants.*

**Closing remarks**