

Ottawa Convention

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Ottawa Convention Latest News

Poland's withdrawal from the Ottawa Convention, as announced by the Prime Minister recently, is a strategic maneuver that allows the country to deploy anti-personnel mines swiftly along its eastern borders if necessary.

About Ottawa Convention

- The Ottawa Convention, also referred to as the **"Mine Ban Treaty,"** prohibits the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines (APLs).
- It requires states-parties to destroy their stockpiled APLs within four years and eliminate all APL holdings, including mines currently planted in the soil, within 10 years.
- Countries may request a renewable extension, which can be up to 10 years long, to fulfill their destruction obligations.
- States-parties are also required annually to report their total APL stockpiles, the technical characteristics of their APLs, the location of all mined areas, and the status of APL destruction programs.

- The convention, which is of unlimited duration and open to all nations, **entered into force on March 1, 1999.**
- The Treaty has **164 States Parties**, including 34 out of the 50 States that produced mines before 1997, and 33 Signatories.
- However, six major countries **remain outside** the Convention: **China, India, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and United States.**
- **States Party to the Ottawa Treaty commit to**
 - **Never use APLs, nor “develop, produce,** otherwise acquire, **stockpile,** retain, or transfer” them;
 - **Clear mined areas** in their territory **within 10 years;**
 - **In mine-affected countries, conduct mine risk education** and ensure that **mine survivors,** their families, and communities receive **comprehensive assistance;**
 - **Offer assistance to other States Parties,** for example, in providing for survivors or contributing to clearance programs;
 - **Adopt national implementation measures** (such as national legislation) in order to ensure that the terms of the treaty are upheld in their territory.

Source: DEVD

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