

**Statement on behalf of Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Ukraine's Suspension of its Obligations Under the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention**

We take note of the decision by Ukraine to purportedly suspend the operation of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention as communicated by the United Nations Secretary General to States Parties on 21 July 2025. We note that this communication refers to the decision as “in accordance with the provisions of” the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969 (VCLT), and separately Ukraine has noted that the decision is “guided by” Article 62 VCLT relating to a “fundamental change of circumstances” as a legal justification for suspension.

We take note of the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the decision dated 29 June 2025, which sets out the context of Russian's illegal invasion of Ukraine, and the need for Ukraine to take a “difficult but necessary” decision in order to protect its land from occupation, its people from Russian atrocities and the “survival and preservation of Ukraine as a sovereign, independent, and free state”.

We recognise that Ukraine is faced with impossible choices in its existential fight against Russia, a nuclear-armed aggressor state illegally invading their country.

As States Parties to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention our commitment to the Convention, its wider object and purpose, and to international law more broadly is unwavering. The Convention plays an important role in the protection of civilians both during and after conflict.

We emphasise that the doctrine of Article 62 of the VCLT, relating to a fundamental change of circumstances, operates with a high threshold and cautions all states from taking any interpretation which may imply a lesser threshold. We wish to impress our continued commitment to our obligations under international law, including, but not limited to obligations under international humanitarian law, and we expect all states to do similarly.

We will continue to encourage Ukraine's engagement with the Convention. In the meantime, our support for Ukraine remains steadfast, including our existing commitments to humanitarian demining in Ukraine.