

Reference: C.N.362.2025.TREATIES-XXVI.5 (Depositary Notification)

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING,  
PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON  
THEIR DESTRUCTION

OSLO, 18 SEPTEMBER 1997

LITHUANIA: NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL <sup>1</sup>

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary,  
communicates the following:

The above action was effected on 27 June 2025.

(Original: English)

“... the Republic of Lithuania has reconsidered its position with respect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, for reasons that include:

- Since Lithuania became a State Party to the Convention in 2003, the regional security situation has fundamentally deteriorated and military threats to Lithuania’s national security have significantly increased. The Russian Federation continues its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and, alongside its accomplices, poses an existential threat to its regional neighbours. Russia is also violating its international obligations, using military aggression to achieve its goals, and disregarding international law, including the fundamental principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Under these circumstances, Lithuania is taking decisions that are necessary to strengthen its deterrence and defence capabilities and to protect its population, to safeguard its territorial integrity, national sovereignty and independence. The decision to withdraw from the Convention has been reached after a detailed reassessment of Lithuania’s national security needs and extensive consultations both nationally and with Lithuania’s regional partners.
- While reaffirming its commitment to the humanitarian objectives of the Convention, Lithuania has concluded that anti-personnel mines are important tools for conventional warfare. Anti-personnel mines, if used alongside other mines and weapon systems, would enhance the ability of the Lithuanian Armed Forces to effectively restrict enemy invasion and movement on the territory of Lithuania and enhance deterrence vis-à-vis potential aggressors. Additionally, anti-personnel mines would serve as a tool to reinforce counter mobility lines composed of various physical barriers and other elements. Moreover, the use of anti-personnel mines would exert psychological pressure on enemy forces before and during combat, leading to fatigue and reduced discipline of enemy forces.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to depositary notification C.N.381.2003.TREATIES-XXVI.5 of 12 May 2003 (Ratification: Lithuania).

- Lithuania recognizes that there are no guarantees that anti-personnel mines would not be used on the territory of a State Party. The Russian Federation, which has not signed and ratified the Convention, has initiated an illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, in violation of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Even though Ukraine is a State Party to the Convention, the aggressor Russia has nonetheless extensively used various types of anti-personnel mines on the territory of Ukraine. In its use of anti-personnel mines, Russia has also violated the key principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL): distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack.
- Despite its withdrawal from the Convention, Lithuania confirms its unwavering commitment to fully comply with its obligations under IHL, including customary IHL and the IHL treaties to which Lithuania is a State Party. This includes, without being limited to, the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Arms Trade Treaty, and the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, including its Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996.
- In line with its obligations under IHL, Lithuania is committed to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians from the effects of anti-personnel mines. Such precautions include, without being limited to, the use of fencing, signs, warning and monitoring by military personnel to protect civilians. Lithuania also intends to record all the necessary information concerning mine-affected areas and start demining activities without delay after the cessation of active hostilities.
- Lithuania remains highly supportive of international cooperation and assistance to address the humanitarian implications of mines and explosive remnants of war, as evidenced by the Demining Capability Coalition for Ukraine, co-led by Lithuania and another State.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania, hereby formally declare that the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, having considered the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, done at Oslo on 18 September 1997, and the reasons above, decided to denounce the said Convention, and in accordance with the provisions outlined in Article 20 of the Convention, the Republic of Lithuania withdraws from the Convention.”

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In accordance with paragraph 3 of article 20 of the Convention, the withdrawal would take effect for Lithuania on 27 December 2025, subject to the condition set forth in the said paragraph, which reads as follows:

“3. Such withdrawal shall only take effect six months after the receipt of the instrument of withdrawal by the Depositary. If, however, on the expiry of that six-month period, the withdrawing State Party is engaged in an armed conflict, the withdrawal shall not take effect before the end of the armed conflict.”

3 July 2025

