

Reference: C.N.421.2025.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

POLAND: NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL ¹

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

The above action was effected on 20 August 2025.

(Courtesy Translation) (Original: Polish)

1. The Republic of Poland unequivocally condemns the aggressive and destabilizing actions of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus - both neighbouring states to the Republic of Poland – whose behaviour, including through the ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, continue to demonstrate blatant disregard for the most fundamental principles of international law, while at the same time posing a serious and persistent threat to the Euro-Atlantic community.
2. The deteriorated security environment created as a result of the above-mentioned actions, has forced the Republic of Poland to evaluate and strengthen its deterrence and defence capabilities.
3. The Republic of Poland recognizes the significance of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (“the Ottawa Treaty”) as a vital instrument of disarmament diplomacy.
4. However, continued adherence to the Ottawa Treaty places the Republic of Poland at a grave disadvantage, as possible hostile actors may exploit the military asymmetry created by our legal and moral restraint.
5. Accordingly, and with deep regret, the Republic of Poland hereby announces its withdrawal from the Ottawa Treaty in accordance with its Article 20.
6. This decision, made in the interest of national security, is without prejudice to the full commitment by the Republic of Poland to the principles of international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilian population and civilian objects during armed conflict. Our values remain unchanged - as the tools of our national defense evolve to meet the growing threats to our security.

¹ Refer to depositary notification C.N.748.2012.TREATIES-XXVI.5 of 27 December 2012 (Ratification: Poland).

7. The Republic of Poland will continue to uphold humanitarian standards, minimize potential harm to civilians, and employ any lawful military means with proportionality and subject to military necessity. These principles will guide all future decisions related to national defence.
8. Furthermore, the Republic of Poland reaffirms its commitment to cooperation within the European Union, including in support of the initiatives aimed at promoting mine action, post-conflict demining, and assistance to victims of landmines worldwide.

In accordance with paragraph 3 of article 20 of the Convention, the withdrawal would take effect for Poland on 20 February 2026, 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.”

26 August 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a 'N' and a horizontal line underneath.