

# AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**United Nations Security Council**

**Arria-formula Meeting**

**“Safeguarding Lives, Sustaining Peace: Enhancing Mine Action for  
Stabilization, Protection, Recovery, and Inclusion”**

**Statement by the Republic of Austria**

**New York, 12 December 2024**

At the outset, Austria would like to commend Japan for organising this UN Security Council Arrria-formula meeting on enhancing mine action for stabilization, protection, recovery and inclusion.

25 years ago, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1265, the first resolution on the Protection of Civilians. As USG Lacroix rightly pointed out at this year's Mine Action Directors Meeting, the mine action sector has made a significant contribution to implementing this Resolution from the beginning: By advocating for compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights and assisting states with meeting their treaty obligations and obligations under international humanitarian law, by providing support to affected countries and communities, but also by facilitating humanitarian assistance and providing protection through UN peace operations.

It is the unprecedented strong partnerships between states, the UN, the ICRC, international and regional organisations, humanitarian actors, civil society as well as the significant contribution by survivors and organisations representing them that steer the effective work in global mine action. Together, they have achieved highly impressive results on a daily basis, making a real difference for the life of affected individuals, communities and countries.

We must redouble our efforts to address the challenges that mine action is currently facing, including through even stronger partnerships and a re-commitment to the core humanitarian commitments that we have signed up to.

Austria will continue to be a staunch supporter of mine action on bilateral and multilateral levels and will remain fully engaged in all its aspects, with a particular emphasis on victim assistance.

Mine action is not an end in itself. It rather is an essential stepping stone for recovery, reconstruction and peace and security. Landmark humanitarian disarmament instruments aim at ending the suffering from mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war. They have been so successful over decades at saving lives, restoring livelihoods, human dignity and prosperity, thereby contributing towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Today, these humanitarian disarmament instruments are under strain. The

international community must work together to ensure the integrity of these core IHL instruments to protect civilians and prevent any further indiscriminate harm of mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war.

Thank you.