

## Executive Summary

Mines Action Canada (MAC) has been involving youth in disarmament for almost 25 years through various programs. Since 2017, the Mine Action Fellows program has been a growing youth network. MAC sponsors members of the program to attend capacity training alongside multilateral disarmament meetings. From July 2023-June 2025 MAC held three of these youth trainings alongside the Cluster Munition Convention and Mine Ban Treaty meetings. At each meeting, the Mine Action Fellows learned how to lobby delegates, draft statements, and some delivered opening remarks and statements in Plenary. The Mine Action Fellows also received monthly emails to learn about different topics in disarmament, and had the opportunity to apply for small grants which allowed them to develop and implement a project in their community. In addition to the Mine Action Fellows program, MAC hosted one international youth seminar on explosive weapons and four regional youth seminars on how to advocate against landmines, cluster munitions, and explosive weapons in populated areas. These regional Youth in Disarmament Seminars brought youth together from North America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia-Pacific which helped create regional networks of youth passionate about disarmament.

## Full Submission

1. In September 2023, Mines Action Canada invited 11 Mine Action Fellows to the Convention on Cluster Munitions Meeting of States Parties. During this week, the Fellows met with the Iraqi Presidency of the Convention, the Swiss Ambassador, the UK Ambassador, the Director of the Implementation Support Unit participated in leadership training sessions convened by MAC, observed in Plenary sessions, and learned from civil society experts in clearance and victim assistance.
2. In November 2023, Mines Action Canada invited 22 Mine Action Fellows to the Mine Ban Treaty Meeting of States Parties. During this week, the Fellows met with the German Presidency and other diplomats, delivered a statement, assisted MAC with hosting a side event at which a Fellow was a speaker, participated in leadership training sessions convened by MAC, and observed in Plenary sessions.

3. In February 2024, Mines Action Canada invited 16 youth from around the world to a seminar on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA). This seminar featured guest speakers from the International Network on Explosive Weapons, Norwegian People's Aid, Airwars, PAX, and Humanity & Inclusion. On the final day, they drafted and recorded a statement which was shown at the Oslo Meeting for the EWIPA Political Declaration in April 2024.
4. In March 2024, MAC invited 6 youth from the United States and Canada to a regional seminar on EWIPA, landmines, and cluster munitions. This seminar featured guest speakers from Canadian Parliament, Human Rights Watch, the Explosive Weapons Monitor, and Canadian Red Cross.
5. In June 2024, MAC invited 8 youth from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana to a regional seminar on EWIPA, landmines, and cluster munitions. MAC partnered with the Women's Institute for Alternative Development, based in Trinidad and Tobago.
6. In September 2024, MAC invited 9 youth from Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Zambia to a regional seminar on EWIPA, landmines, and cluster munitions. MAC partnered with Disarmament and Arms Control South Africa.
7. In November 2024, MAC invited 42 Mine Action Fellows to the Mine Ban Treaty Review Conference. During this week, the Fellows lobbied diplomats on current issues, drafted and delivered a youth statement, and some spoke at a side event hosted by MAC.
8. MAC hired a consultant to develop a youth campaigning toolkit. The toolkit provides youth with advice on how to create a campaign and advocate against EWIPA both internationally and domestically. There are also chapters written by two experts on how to engage with the military and how to engage with survivors.
9. In February 2025, MAC invited 20 youth from the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on ASEAN youth, to a regional seminar on EWIPA, landmines, and cluster munitions. After learning how to campaign against these weapons all week, the participants met with the Thailand Mine Action Center on the final day.