

Republic of Lithuania

First Committee of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly

Explanation of Vote

on the Resolutions on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

New York, 4 November 2025

Mr. Chair,

My delegation wishes to explain its abstention on resolutions **L.30** (Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention) and **L.52** (Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions).

Lithuania reaffirms its respect for the humanitarian objectives that inspired the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Oslo convention) and Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa convention). We deplore the suffering inflicted upon civilians by the indiscriminate use of such weapons. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to international humanitarian law and its principles.

That said, Lithuania has decided to withdraw from the Oslo Convention, effective 6 March 2025, and Ottawa Convention, effective 27 December 2025. These decisions were not taken lightly or in isolation. They were a direct result of the fundamental deterioration of regional security caused by Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia's massive militarization along NATO's Eastern Flank.

Russia, not a party to either Convention, has extensively and indiscriminately used cluster munitions and mines in Ukraine deliberately targeting civilians and violating international humanitarian law.

In this security environment, Lithuania cannot accept unilateral constraints that would undermine its self-defense. The sovereign and transparent decisions to withdraw were made in full accordance with Article 20 of the respective Conventions, following extensive consultations with partners.

Withdrawal does not signal a weakening of humanitarian standards. Lithuania continues to implement the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols, and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Our armed forces are trained and equipped to apply the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution in all military operations. We remain actively engaged in mine action, including through the Demining Capability Coalition for Ukraine, co-led by Lithuania and Iceland.

While the resolutions express regret over the withdrawals, we believe the emphasis should instead be placed on the deeply troubling security environment and the exceptional circumstances that necessitated such actions.

Thank you.