Recognizing Article 13 of the *Convention against Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* (1997) which allows the signatories of the convention the ability to amend the treaty,

Affirming A/RES/20/2131 (1965) on the *Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty* which states that no states have the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatsoever in any internal or external affairs of any other state,

Recalling the principle of self-determination on A/RES/20/1514 (1960) *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples* which states the conviction that all peoples have an inalienable right to complete freedom, the exercise of their sovereignty, and their national integrity,

Recognizing the successes of the UN and relevant NGOs in channeling funds to the *UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in mine action* in order to further the goals of demining and disarmament,

Deeply concerned of the loss of lives by anti-personal landmines, particularly the impact on women and children, as determined by the United Nations Annual Report of the *UN Mine Action Gateway* in 2008,

Further concerned by the recent usage of “randomly scattered” anti-personal landmines in Afghanistan and Syria, as per reported by *Children in War: The State of World’s Children by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)*,

Alarmed about the production of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by use of Non-State Actors, such as ISIL as *UNMAS Report on Iraq* in August 2015,

Highlighting Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) such as CORD aid, HALO trust, *International Red Cross (ICRC), International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation* for their efforts in global demining,

Emphasizing the importance of attracting Members States to adhere to the convention against *Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* (1997), also known as the *Ottawa Convention*, to accede to the primary provisions of the treaty voluntarily,


Acknowledging the Amended Protocol II on certain Conventional Weapons, which makes mandatory the marking of anti-personal landmine locations,

Acknowledging the value of developing technologies in the 21st century that can provide the same state security role as anti-personnel mines, but are non-discriminate weapons as noted by research by *Russian State Research and Development Engineer Institute and the Science Research, Machinery, Building Institute*,

The General Assembly First Committee,

1. Recommends an amendment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (*Ottawa Convention*) which would:
   
   a. allow signatories to self-impose a specific deadline, within reasonable limits, as determined by UNMAS, for the destruction of existing stocks of anti-personal landmines, as opposed to the current timeline of four years set in Article 4 of the *Ottawa Convention*;
b. expand the scope of demining efforts discussed within the *Ottawa Convention* to further include UN-recommended NGOs and civil society experts in the field, with the goal of catering to a larger scope of diverse demining needs within Member States;

2. *Urges* the Security Council to consider the expansion of UNMAS Assistance Program for the purpose of:

   a. researching best practices for effective demining methods and safe disarmament techniques, as well as expanding this program to include any Member States not currently involved in the programming and research;

   b. creating a forum for collaboration between UN-nominated demining experts states to further consolidate existing research on demining for ease of implementation;

   c. imploring member states with the capacity to do so to, via the invitation of the mine-affected state, to support demining efforts by contributing field experts, cost-effective and efficient detection methods, and human resources for the purpose of demining;

   d. suggesting that UNMAS monitor the countries and relevant NGOs who are removing anti-personal landmines to ensure accountability, effectiveness, and consistent global standards in demining efforts;

3. *Promotes* the creation of a summit in 2017 to be known as the “Inclusivity Summit,” with the goal of creating dialogue with a specific focus on non-signatory members of the *Ottawa Convention* on January 20th, 2017, to be held in the Hague of Kingdom of Netherlands, with the goal of:

   a. adopting a series of dialogues and discussion of the *Ottawa Convention* to understand non-signatory member states interests in self-defense, sovereignty, and border protection, and to increase dialogue on means to support all involved states on demining efforts;

   b. establish the necessity of amending the *Ottawa Convention* to be able to include all current non-signatories;

4. *Suggests* a convening of Member States through a conference under the UNODA to examine the feasibility of developing technologies as an alternative to land mines, including:

   a. technology designed to be lethal or use non-lethal munitions while being able to be turned on and off remotely;

   b. recognizing vehicle signatures and detonate only on military vehicle;

   c. containing self-defusing systems, as an alternative to traditional land mines.
Recognizing that the Mine Ban Treaty Annual Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (1997) discussed a limited scope on the discussion of military tactics, technological advancements, and research based proposals,

Aware that demining personnel are targeted in armed conflict,

Noting the success of entrepreneurial initiatives to destroy landmines, such as the “Mine Kafon” project which consists of wind powered technology made of recyclable materials that has been proven to successfully clear in an anti-personnel landmines in a financially efficient manner, along with other unique anti-landmine models implemented by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and their partners,

Recognizing the importance of Geneva Convention (1949) clause 25, which establishes the protection provided to trained medical personnel and their profession in times of conflict,

Affirming that explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) professionals are one of the most effective means of removing anti-personal landmines (APLs) stated by the 4.40 Document on UN military roles and responsibilities, and Integrated Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS),

Guided by the travesties caused to Demining Personnel as defined at the proposed Conference for a Special Protocol as mentioned in operative clause 2,

Noting the effectiveness of the efforts set forth by various UN departments, agencies, programmes, and funds which play a role in mine-action programs, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office of Project Services, and United Nations Institute for Disarmament of Research,

Recalling the positive impact that NGOs such as Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) and the Mine Advising Group (MAG) have had on demining the globe, the individual and collective efforts that have taken towards the process of removing anti-personnel landmines (APLs) individually and along the lines of the Ottawa Convention, the sovereignty of all Member States as outlined in the United Nations Charter Article 2 and 1,

The General Assembly First Committee,

1. *Encourages* Member States and relevant civil society organizations to discuss domestic classification of APLs removal personnel as “protected persons,” building upon the original definition of “protected persons” established under the Geneva Convention of 1949, as well as to:

   a. propose the creation of a global Special Protocol and Conference on Special Protocols to the Geneva Convention to determine the categorization of demining experts as protected persons under the definition Geneva Convention 1949;

   b. globally recognize the violent targeting of demining experts in the time of conflict;

   c. encourage further research and or dialogue to establish the importance of protecting demining experts;

2. *Encourages* the parties present at the next annual summit of the Ottawa Convention to consider expanding the definition of anti-mining experts through Article 12 of the Ottawa Convention, to more comprehensively include the within the expanded definition:
a. staff with demolitions experience;

b. members of civil society organizations;

c. international Government branches working in areas affected by mines with the purposes of clearing mines, surveying locations for mines, or mine recognition education for civilians;

d. victim assistance professionals;

3. **Recommends** further research for the use of EOD professionals in the removal of APLs, and their impact on demining missions under the UNODA and other relevant bodies;

4. **Endorses** future research of initiatives under the *Mine Action Project Portfolio* that would relate to the detecting, clearance, and prevention of anti-personal landmines (APLs) and increasing Member State’s ability to detect and eliminate them;

5. **Further recommends** a formation of a new one-time convention on the topic of furthering anti-mining efforts, to be called the “Babylon Convention” to take place on 31 October 2016 in Geneva Switzerland, with the goal of achieving:

   a. previously unprecedented discussion on the elimination of landmines in the event of “extraordinary and special situations of conflict” such as the establishment of safe zones as defined by a consensus of the General Assembly First Committee;

   b. the insurance of the completion of the goals set by the Mine Ban Annual Meeting, while simultaneously maintaining safety of civilians in safety zones in a time of conflict and discussing emerging relevant technology trends;

   c. all Member States are formally invited, and with the potential of conference renewal to be discussed at the forum.
Noting Article 1 of the United Nations Charter and the GA First’s purpose to promote international peace and security and take collective efforts on removing threats to peace,

Bearing in mind Article 2 of the United Nations Charter which states the importance of respecting the sovereignty of all Member States,

Calling attention to the efforts of Member States that seek to develop more efficient anti-personnel mine mapping and information gathering databases such as the Swedish database, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Information System which is the most stable and up to date platform due to constant updates and a larger technical support group,

Recognizing the work of demining programs that have been effective at promoting capacity building through annual quality assurance tests as seen in previously implemented programs,

Acknowledging the actions of Member States training programs that train demining professionals annually in high-impacted regions,

Confident in the success of multilateral training exercises between Member States, including but not limited to, the Flintlock program, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Evaluation Coordination Conference (NSOECC) that have been proven to be effective in demining operation particularly in Africa,

Draws attention to the usefulness of the newly developed Micropower Impulse Radar and Land-Mine Detection Advanced Radar Concept (LANDMARC) as a valuable form of ground penetrating radar in order to detect active mines,

Acknowledging that improvised explosive devices (IED) present the unique challenge of not being easily detectable as traditional mines,

1. Encourages the incorporation of effective mapping databases with the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) in order to expand the current stability of the IMSMA database through:

   a. establishing yearly forums that will be held in conjunction with Member States which have relevant mine mapping and marking databases in order for (UNODA) to reevaluate the IMSMA;

   b. facilitating discussions between Member States and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the purpose of new innovative measures of Anti-personnel mine-mapping;

2. Suggests Member States to reevaluate and retool existing training operations to accommodate for the detection, destruction, and disposal of mines and IED’s, both metallic and plastic through;

   a. incorporating pre-funded exercises such as, Flintlock and NSOECC;

   b. increasing the availability and quality of training for EOD personnel through existing exercises;

3. Further recommends cooperation with NGOs to assist with the funding, development, and deployment of new locating and demining techniques, such as more effective and accurate measures or processes of mapping and
marking minefields while improving current land mine removal techniques such as cost-effective mine flails that will incorporate remote operating systems.
Keeping in mind Chapter IX Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations, which promotes higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

Recalling Article 2(7) of the United Nations Charter, which reiterates the importance of respecting individual country’s sovereignty matters of domestic jurisdiction,

Acknowledging the importance of the safety of civilians in mine infested areas,

Noting the significant work done by the United Mine Action Service, under the Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), under the Security Council,

Noting with deep concern the consequences of the proliferation of mines not only on human lives but also on the livelihood and economic development of the affected parties,

Echoing the significance of previous UN resolutions on the subject of demining, including General Assembly Resolution RES/A/69/34 (2014), which call for implementation of current UN policies on mines,

Recognizing that landmines pose a significant threat to civilian populations and cause 15,000-20,000 deaths per year according to the United Nations Global Issues Report,

Recalling Resolution A/RES/69/54 Promotion of Multilateralism in the Area of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation which highlights the general need for internationally agreed upon disarmament initiatives,

Specifically recognizing the widespread use of landmines and the continued threat they pose for the vulnerable populations of children, women, and elderly,

Understanding that demining can cost 300-1,000 US dollars per mine and thus can impose a significant monetary burden imposed to countries working towards elimination of mines,

Recognizing the importance of international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGO’s), civil society organizations, and de-mining programs as an effective tool of cooperation among member states to eliminate mines and provide support to affected populations,

Recalling that the support of multilateral cooperation through confidence building measures encompasses the sharing of information and technology on Anti-Personnel Mines, focus on research and development and the and the management of stockpiles, and the importance of cooperation, within UN institutions, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS),

Acknowledging the work done by NGOs, IGOs, and programs such as Campanha Brasileira Contra Minas Terrestres (CCBM), Kenya’s Coalition of NGOS Against Land-Mining, United States Humanitarian Demining Program (HDP), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which have campaigned against land mines in their respective countries, united NGOs for the singular mission of getting rid of land mines, provided isolated communities with education on preventing civilian casualties from post-conflict mines, and been all part of the goal of dismantling and eliminating anti-personnel mines,
Observing that Improvised Explosive Devices, improvised explosive devices that is usually of local manufacture and has the elements of manufactured mines, cause similar devastation to civilian populations, as 53,000 civilians killed or injured in 2011-2013 as stated by the Action of Armed Violence, and should be addressed,

Recognizing that alternatives to anti-personnel mines will return land to productive use, through the process of non-lethal methods, which would have the added benefit of boosting the economies of low-resource member states, such as but not limited to states within Southern Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East,

Emphasizing the importance of responsible creation and implementation of new, non-indiscriminate mine technologies, used with careful discretion and subject to approval by a review committee,

Advocating for the necessity of establishing demarcated areas where demining operations are taking place in order to protect the civilian population,

Expresses its support and reaffirms the importance of the Landmine and Cluster Monitor, under the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC), which advocates the monitoring of landmines as well as cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war,

Reaffirming the principles of the UN Volunteer Trust Fund, which is a primary source of funding for mine action work,

Taking note of the success of Regional Training Courses (RTC’s), such as but not limited to the Explosives Remnants of War Training Course (ERWTC) and Kenya’s program of the International Mine Action Training Center (IMATC), and their work in providing training for mine clearing personnel and the general public their in native language,

Observing the effectiveness of programs such as UNMAS, Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI), and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHID) to facilitate access to the Mine Action and Explosive Hazard Management: Humanitarian Impact, Technical Aspects, Global Initiatives training course,

Supporting the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization to continue educating the medical field on properly training medical professionals how to mentally and physically treat victims of anti-personnel mines,

Emphasizing the need for the publication of the UNMAS’ Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Safety Handbook in the local languages of the host state, which is eliminating anti-personnel mines with the support of the United Nations and other Member States, for easier information dissemination,

The General Assembly First Committee,

1. Invites countries to continue support the international mission of demining through contributions to trust funds, such as but not limited to, the International Trust Fund of Demining and Mine Victims Assistance or UNMAS Volunteer Trust Fund;

2. Welcomes member states to increase their financial assistance to the UNMAS portfolio of projects until its yearly funding requirements are fulfilled;

3. Urges the increased use of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Ottawa Convention as a sub-committee, with continued support and cooperation from Member States, NGOs, and IGOs invested in this mission, in order to promote the efficient use of current donations and funds, and to achieve:
   a. the creation of a study on the most effective programs that aid in eliminating mines;
   b. clearly presented biannual plans, available resources, and requirements for international cooperation and assistances;
c. to provide clear, comprehensive biannual reports to those providing support on plans, progress, and challenges in meeting treaty obligations;

d. to create an annual ranking of countries based on the approximate estimate of mines in the country to be used in determining where monetary aid and program support would be best used;

e. to create a comprehensive report on developments and causalities at a community level;

f. to create an international database that records the geographical coordinates of mines and other explosive devices so they can be removed with minimal human risk;

4. Suggests Member States to collaborate with already existing programs, campaigns, and NGOs to expand on systems that educate civilians on anti-personnel mines, and rehabilitate those affected by their use by:

a. recommending regional bodies work with relevant NGOs in the region, and to determine unified regional approaches to demining;

b. supporting Member States who do not have the necessary resources for the elimination of their mines on post-conflict zones to cooperate with the organizations and Member States who have the technology who are not only capable of eliminating mines, but also help with demarcation;

c. the collective knowledge, standardization, and development of landmine-prevention education, which correspondence with the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining;

5. Calls upon all member states to organize and participate in Regional Training Courses (RTCs) which offer training in regional native languages such as but not limited to Explosives Remnants of War Training Course (ERWTC):

a. these courses will be hosted by individual countries or countries working together in the same regional block;

b. this will be a self-sustaining program, based on an individual countries ability to financially support it;

c. this program will be under the oversight of the hosting countries and relevant regional IGOs;

6. Further encourages the institutionalization of mine disarmament among regional organizations through Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), actions taken to reduce fear of attack by all parties in a situation of tension without physical conflict, in a regional and sub-regional area that tackles:

a. sharing of expertise and information on anti-personnel mines between the Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and regional governmental organizations;

b. expanding the focus on sharing information and Research and Development (R&D) on demining and management of stockpiles among mine-afflicted areas, through more funds from the international trust funds being directed at research programs;

7. Endorses a move towards a greater educational involvement on the part of the UNMAS to do the following:

a. provide resources targeted towards demining training personnel who require additional technical assistance and training on the process of demining to member states, and the production of relevant technical documents targeted towards this audience;
b. provide all personnel with proper educational standards and knowledge regarding anti-personnel mines to serve as monitors of any activities near the mine infested areas, ensuring that:
   i. personnel will be provided by host governments;
   ii. training will occur through UNMAS, a UN sponsored body;

c. helps states identify specific land areas that have anti-personnel mines and make their citizens aware of dangerous areas;

8. **Recommends** increased emphasis across Members States on the importance of utilizing multiple forms of detection technology of explosive material, including ground penetrating radar, visible light detection, and microelectromechanical systems;

9. **Strongly recommends** all member states consider the impact of Improvised Explosive Devices, and that their threat may now pose similar dangers as landmines, and that they should be dealt with in a similar manner to mines;

10. **Requests** that the UNODA, in collaboration with all member states, and with existing NGOs and IGOs, explore non-indiscriminate and safer technological alternatives to traditional landmines, such as but not limited to:
   a. Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development (APOPO) Mine Detecting Rats (MDR), which helps developing nations safely detect mines in a cost effective manner;
   b. Remote Anti-Armour Mine System (RAAMs) with Non-lethal Capability, which allows countries to target armed vehicles and diminish the risk to civilians;

11. **Appeals** to the General Assembly to amend the UNMAS landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Safety Handbook for the purpose of having the UN committee to have more jurisdiction on the issue and reach a wider audience by:
   a. standardizing the mapping process that allows for comprehensive knowledge of all existing mines that is based on UNMAS’s Education Pillar, and will then be used to help educate the domestic populous in learning the demining process and affected zones, including:
      i. classification of demining procedures and general awareness on minefields for the protection of civilians;
      ii. proper education on defining different kinds of landmines such as stake, bounding, directional mines and its proper disposal;

12. **Recommends** member states consolidate small demining projects into a larger framework, with support of GA1 and UNODC, in order to keep de-miners safe, lower costs, and increase efficiency and the allocation of funds;

13. **Further recommends** the implementation of a unified guideline created by the ISU towards:
   a. the handling of civilians that are affected by anti-personnel mines;
   b. providing medical and psychological support as well as rehabilitation to victims of anti-personnel mines;

14. **Recommends** that countries open a dialogue on the role of domestic militaries in national and international demining efforts, such as the removal of improvised explosive devices and anti-personnel landmines;
15. *Suggests* that member states discuss how the creation of civilian committees can direct, aid, and coordinate demining operation within affected areas as well as to serve as the primary liaison between the United Nations Mine Action Service and each individual Member State;

16. *Encourages* all member states to reaffirm previous UN resolutions on anti-personnel mines for the purpose of creating key partnerships amongst states in order to ensure the safety of civilians in landmine-affected zones.
Recalling Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, which ensures each Member State’s sovereignty within their territory and states that “the Organization is based on the principle of sovereign equality of all its Members,”

Recognizing the efforts of the Ottawa Convention on the matter of promoting the detection, disposal and destruction of anti-personnel landmines and on the idea that it constitutes a threat to the security of individuals across the world,

Noting with deep concern that Article 6.4 of the Ottawa Convention does not provide sufficient aid to countries in need of financial and international aid from member states when removing and disposing of anti-personnel landmines,

Fully believing that anti-personnel landmines cause “suffering and casualties that kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenseless civilians and especially children,” as per the Ottawa Convention, and the removal of these will promote the welfare and safety of civilians,

Emphasizes the fiscal capabilities of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action and the current limited number of a demining monetary fund whose purpose is to provide financial assistance to countries in need of demining threats and concerns,

Further emphasizing the importance of voluntary member-state funding of the aforementioned Voluntary Trust Fund of Mine Action,

Having examined the successful efforts of the Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling (Anti-personnel Landmines Detection Product Development, APOPO) program, which enabled significant achievements in the finding and charting of anti-personnel landmines within the African continent by using the Giant Pouched Rat (cricetomys gabianu) as a means to detect anti-personnel landmines,

Having considered the fact that some member states that have not signed the treaty may use anti-personnel landmines as a means of border protection,

Expressing its acknowledgement of current advancement in demining and detection technologies around the world,

Fully aware that more research and development can be one to safely detect and remove landmines,

Analyzing the system used until now in order to eliminate the anti-personnel landmine helps the global community understand what was used prior to today to resolve the problem,

Bearing in mind the Y2YF (Youth to Youth Fund) initiative as a means of achieving sustainable solutions to localized crisis throughout the world by finding an entrepreneurial solution through public and corporate involvement,

Recognizing that there are 60 countries that have anti-personnel landmines today,

The General Assembly First Committee,

1. Calls for increased partnership between the General Assembly First Committee towards the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UNVTF) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), by:
a. encouraging the UNMAS (United Nations Mine Action Service) to consider increasing research in collaboration with the UNODA on innovative cost-effective methods of locating and accounting for anti-personnel landmines within member states;

b. emphasizing increased research on the development of new technology in military tactics, with the goals of top-down knowledge distribution to prevent, address and educate civilians on the issue of anti-personnel landmines, and the adoption of alternative methods to protect borders through manually activated defense methods;

2. **Calls upon** the continued research of advanced mechanical, biological, and chemical landmine detection under the UNODA and with the guidance of UN-nominated specialists in the field, with a focus on new cost-efficient developments in demining technology, such as:

a. advanced electromagnetic methods such as ground penetrating radar, which can be utilized to sense the landmine detonator and employ high frequency signals that are sensitive to non-metallic parts of a landmine;

b. the use of bacteria that which can be on a landmine field and detects landmine through the use of UV light;

c. the use of personnel-efficient hydro-abrasive cutting technology to cut open anti-personnel landmines by using water pressure and an erosive process;

3. **Calls upon** the creation of a public annual conference under the GA1 and funded by the *Voluntary Trust Fund of Mine Action* to promote creative alternatives to landmines and determine effective landmine alternatives, for the purpose:

a. of serving as a platform of discussion with multilateral innovators, prospective investors, and civil society organizations to endorse local initiatives in an effort to localize anti-personnel landmines;

b. of establishing a platform for dialogue on technological and biological advancements, with the aim of increasing publically-available research on the chemical composition of the anti-personnel landmines.