

**Statement on Cooperation and Assistance**  
**Intersessional Meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty**  
**7-8 June 2018**



Thank you, Mr/Ms President.

As we meet today, 33 States Parties have clearance obligations, and most of them have indicated needing external assistance to complete the job. Similarly most of the 31 States Parties with significant numbers of mine victims suffer from a lack of adequate resources to fulfill the commitments of the Maputo Action Plan. As we work towards reaching a mine-free world by 2025, these figures remind us that the provision of timely and targeted resources remains a key challenge.

We should strive to increase and strengthen cooperation and assistance. This will greatly help us reach the 2025 goals we have set for ourselves.

First, affected states need to carefully present the progress made, the remaining challenges, available resources and their needs for technical and/or financial international assistance. National ownership is key in ensuring completion of the treaty's obligations. For affected states national ownership must translate into the utilization of local expertise, the development of clear annual plans and regular reporting by affected states, as well as the allocation of national resources.

Donor states and organizations should ensure sufficient levels of multi-year funding are provided until we reach a mine-free world. Complete figures regarding international contributions to mine action provided in 2017 are not yet available. Yet we are hopeful that the increase in international funding reported in 2016 after three years of declining support combined with the pledging dynamic developed in the past two years are a demonstration of a renewed commitment from the donor community to play its part towards the fulfilment of treaty obligations.

Open and regular dialogue between affected and donor states about plans, progress and difficulties, will help to ensure support is used and provided in an efficient manner. In this respect, we commend the efforts of the Committee in promoting the individualized approach, which provides states with the opportunity to connect with the donor community and aims at providing tailored answers.

Finally one of the most useful tools we have as a community are the annual Article 7 reports. Timely submission of completed annual reports provides vital information necessary for effective cooperation and assistance.