

Statement by Norway: 4th Review Conference: Initial thoughts, ideas and tentative dates

Delivered by Ambassador Hans Brattskar

Madame President,

Norway will be grateful for the opportunity to preside over the Fourth Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention in 2019. The Mine Ban Convention is a central component in our collective efforts to address the unacceptable humanitarian consequences of anti-personnel landmines. The universalization and effective implementation of the Convention has been a key priority for Norway since the Convention was adopted in 1997. We believe the Fourth Review Conference will be an important milestone in fulfilling the objectives of the Convention and will be honored by the opportunity to preside over it.

I look forward to sharing with you a more concrete vision for the next Review Conference at a later stage. We have benefitted from a first round of informal consultations with many of the actors in this room during these intersessional meetings. It is important for us to learn more about your priorities so that we can, together, identify some key deliverables for the Review Conference.

Our aim is to use the Fourth Review Conference to bring renewed political attention to the Convention and to strengthen its implementation in all its pillars. This is in line with Norway's partnership approach to the Mine Ban Convention and to mine action. This Convention came into being as a result of close cooperation between affected countries, governments who were concerned about the humanitarian aspects of the use of landmines, civil society and international organizations. The same partnership approach can be used for completion. You can expect us to continue highlighting these important partnerships in the preparation process for the Review Conference. I would like to assure you that our door will be open, and invite all of you to approach me or my team on any issue related to the implementation and universalization of the Convention.

Though we are still early on in the planning phase, we already see some key issues we expect will shape our work towards and beyond the Review Conference. A continued focus on a mine free world by 2025 is one of them. 2025 will also help pave the way for reaching the Sustainable Development

Goals of 2030. We are conscious that a mine free world does not mean a world without landmine victims and survivors, and we will incorporate the need for continued victim assistance into our work. A gender dimension will underlie all our efforts and initiatives. New use of landmines is providing a challenge to the norm that was established by this Convention. The number of victims has risen sharply in the past two years. We are reminded that it was concern for the indiscriminate impact on civilian lives which brought about this Convention in the first place. Together we will have to consider very carefully what can be done to address this development.

It is my pleasure to inform you that we are planning for the Fourth Review Conference to take place in Oslo in the week starting 25th November 2019. We very much look forwards to welcoming you to Oslo for the Review Conference.

In addition, with the support of the ISU, we have scheduled tentative dates for the 2019 intersessional meetings, to take place here in Geneva on 22 – 24 May 2019. Both the dates for the Fourth Review Conference and the intersessional meetings will be formally circulated at a later stage.

I look forward to participating in the work of this Convention under Ambassador Dalil`s very able leadership and to continuing our dialogue with each and every one of you about the Fourth Review conference of the Mine Ban Convention.

Thank you.