

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Intersessional Meetings | 22 June – 24 June 2021

Topic: integrating Gender and Diverse Needs of Affected Communities in Operational Planning and Prioritization.

Where: virtual

I firstly would like to thank the panelists for their excellent presentations on this important topic.

Canada would like to join others who have spoken already in condemning the recent attack on the Halo Trust deminers and offer our condolences to their families.

Chair, Mine action contributes to a number of Sustainable Development Goals notably SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and increasingly SDG 5 on gender equality. Canada views the meaningful inclusion of women in mine action as a precondition to sustainable development and sustainable peace.

We believe that gender mainstreaming is central to a sustainable national mine action strategy. Over the last year through various mine action related meetings, we have heard countless examples of success stories related to the meaningful inclusion of gender. For example, The video “Into the Fire” published by the Mines Advisory Group and shown at the last review conference in Oslo, tells a compelling story of the benefits of gender inclusion in mine clearance.

We also are pleased to support and promote efforts at promoting gender within the Convention itself. Canada was pleased to co-sign the Working Paper on gender mainstreaming presented at the last Review Conference in Oslo. Canada is very pleased with the inclusion of gender throughout the Oslo Action Plan action items, and we are very supportive of the efforts of the gender focal points within the convention’s committees.

Canada advances gender mainstreaming in our international efforts to fight landmines, which upholds our commitment to a feminist approach to our foreign policy that is a priority for us. Canada believes that the meaningful involvement of women in mine action provides many advantages through their inclusion in decision-making and inclusion in rebuilding efforts, resulting in measurable socio-economic improvements. During a recent dialogue that Canada held with Indigenous and civil society partners on its Feminist Foreign Policy, participants raised a number of concerns related to a range of disarmament issues including landmines, highlighting the issue of collateral damage affecting primarily women and children in conflict zones. Canada remains committed to advancing a world free of landmines taking into account these concerns. This is why a gender component is evaluated in all project proposals we consider.

Thank you,