

**ICBL Statement on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance  
Intersessional Meetings to the Mine Ban Treaty, 22-24 June 2021**

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Thank you, Madame Chair,

We all know that international cooperation and assistance is a key ingredient to reaching our shared goal of a mine free world. Lack of resources is too often cited as the main factor preventing any progress. To achieve our ambitious goal, *all* affected states and territories should have access to adequate and sustainable resources.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely hit the entire international community, and we have yet to fully assess its influence on mine action assistance. More than ever, donors should strive to protect their support to mine action and to stay committed to do their part to finish the job as soon as possible.

According to the Monitor, in the last decade, international donors contributed more than US\$5 billion to mine action. However, most of that funding was directed towards very few countries, strongly favoring those with massive and new contamination, leaving aside countries with smaller and/or legacy contamination. Completion is about leaving no one behind.

Clearance activities received the most support during that period. Whereas we know this session is about the linkages between funding and technical assistance and achieving a mine free world, we cannot afford to overlook the need for continued assistance to survivors and affected communities.

Again, we know very well that access to resources is crucial. The key question is what states could do better, differently, to ensure timely and sufficient support is provided and that it is used effectively. Here are some of our main recommendations:

1. Affected states need to provide clear information on remaining challenges, the type of assistance and support needed, and the level of their national contributions. Equally importantly, they need to develop *and* implement resource mobilization plans for completing their obligations.
2. Donors must not fund and forget. Direct engagement and close follow-up from donors with affected states, their support with funding, enhances national ownership, mine action programming and results, and respect for treaty's deadlines.
3. Donor states still need to coordinate more closely among themselves to identify all gaps and work together to cover those in the most efficient and effective manner. This would contribute to reaching a wider range of countries with different levels of contamination, new and old, and with victim assistance obligations to provide services for people injured by EO, survivors, affected families and communities. Donor funding decisions should aim to address both urgent humanitarian impacts, and timely completion of Art. 5 obligations by as many States Parties as possible.
4. Donors' funding decisions should also recognize and remunerate, complete, quality Art. 5 extension requests and work plans aimed at prompt completion.
5. The good efforts under the individualized approach or country coalitions should be further strengthened to promote long-term engagement that will ensure tangible progress and ultimate completion.

We invite all of you to continue that discussion during our side-event on the implementation of Article 5, today at 3pm. With less than four years to go before our 2025 target, let us make sure we are strategic in securing the means to successfully match our ambition of a mine free world.

Thank you.