

Mine Action Review statement

Thematic Session – Mobilizing Resources towards a Mine Free World **Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021**

Thank you for the excellent and interesting presentations.

Securing continued and sufficient funding for Article 5 implementation is of course essential in ensuring affected States Parties achieve completion. However, it is important to emphasise that it is not only the amount of funding that is important, but *how* that funding is used.

In order for each dollar committed to have the maximum return—in terms of emplaced mines being safely destroyed and mined areas being released back to affected communities—then challenges to Article 5 implementation must be identified and overcome. For example, weak national mine action standards and poor-quality survey and clearance that do not follow best practice lead to precious funding being wasted on clearing areas that are not contaminated.

We encourage all mine action stakeholders involved in or supporting Article 5 implementation to make use of Mine Action Review’s annual *Clearing the Mines* report, which includes in-depth, specific monitoring and analysis of the performance of each national mine action programme, identifying country-specific weaknesses and offering Recommendations for Action to improve performance.

Such analysis can help affected States and their partners focus their capacity building and determine what support or intervention is needed, be it technical, financial, or strategic, to overcome challenges. This will ultimately enable affected States Parties to reach completion more swiftly and more cost-effectively.

Platforms for regular dialogue, promoted in Action 44 of the Oslo Action Plan, can provide an excellent informal and collaborative setting for honest and open discussion of the challenges and obstacles to efficient Article 5 implementation. This enables the remedial actions that need to be put in place to overcome those obstacles to be identified and prioritised. Such platforms can also improve coordination and planning, ensuring that funding shortfalls or gaps in Article 5 implementation are identified and addressed in a timely manner.

In Mine Action Review’s parallel civil society monitoring of the Oslo Action Plan, we found that only 8 of the 29 affected States Parties we assessed had in-country platforms in place for dialogue among all stakeholders that met on a regular basis. There are few programmes that would not benefit from a national platform and we encourage every affected State Party that has not yet done so to establish one.

Thank you.