

**Statement on Cooperation and Assistance
Intersessional Meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty
22-24 May 2019**



Mr. President,

In the past 20 years, cooperation and assistance have been driving forces of the norm set by the Mine Ban Treaty. The partnership between the donor community and affected states has been a success and remains a necessity.

It is a success because of the incredible collaborative spirit demonstrated over the years with more than US\$ 8 billion contributed since 1997, on top of which comes the sharing of experience and technical expertise. And it is a necessity, because 34 States Parties still have clearance obligations and have expressed their needs for further support to finish the job. Meanwhile, there are more than 30 States Parties with significant numbers of mine victims that suffer from a lack of resources to provide adequate assistance to survivors and indirect victims.

Complete figures on international contributions provided in 2018 are not yet available. And while we do not expect to see an increase as considerable as in 2017, when international contributions jumped by nearly 40%, we hope that a substantial level of international funding will be maintained. It is important for donors to support the full spectrum of affected States Parties, which includes addressing both new use of improvised anti-personnel mines in the Middle East and sometimes decades-long legacy contamination, concurrently, to support every state to reach completion.

We count on you, the donor community, to increase your dedicated support to victim assistance as a pillar of mine action. This, while demonstrating that your broader humanitarian and development efforts in affected countries are also benefiting survivors and indirect victims. Fulfilling the treaty obligations will only be possible if assistance for land release, stockpile destruction, risk education, advocacy and other mine action related activities is granted to all contaminated States Parties in need of support and to all mine-free states that still have the responsibility for thousands of victims.

But beyond the total amount allocated to mine action activities, we would like to draw your attention on the importance of providing coordinated and tailored support.

To do so, we need:

- First, good data on remaining challenges, available resources and on the amount and type of technical and/or financial assistance needed. Receiving regular updates from affected states on the status and progress in the implementation of the treaty's obligations is the very basis of efficient cooperation and mine action programming. This can be easily done through the annual transparency reports or during meetings such as today's conference.
- Second, constant and direct engagement between the donor community and affected states to ensure that assistance is structured, provided and used in the best possible way.
- Third, it is important for donors to be more coordinated in their efforts with fellow donors, identifying where there are shortfalls in supporting States Parties reach completion.
- Finally, we encourage affected States Parties to hold regular in-country meetings to bring together all stakeholders, including donors to improve coordination and help ensure everything is on track towards completion.

In the run-up to the Fourth Review Conference, let's make sure that we keep in mind our 2025 completion goal and deliver our objective of a mine free world by stepping up cooperation and assistance!

Thank you.