

**ICRC statement to the
Third International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban
Convention**

27 February 2018

- The APMBC is a key treaty of international humanitarian law (IHL), which has brought significant and tangible results to people and communities affected by AP mines. It is rightly hailed as a success and a model of how to address the effects of weapons which have unacceptable costs in humanitarian terms.
- The success of this convention is largely thanks to the sustained commitment and partnerships of mine affected States and States in a position to help them. Equally important is the engagement and actions of international and non-governmental organizations. The ICRC is proud to have been part of the efforts that led to the adoption of the Convention 20 years ago, and we continue to work towards its full universalization and implementation, notably through our field delegations in mine-affected and formerly mine-affected countries. We also continue to work for the substantial improvement in the services and quality of life for mine victims and other persons with disabilities.
- Equally important contributors to the success of the APMBC is the effective and efficient operation of its Implementation Support Unit and the APMBC's sponsorship program. The ICRC commends both for their efforts. They have played a critical role in supporting States Parties and in furthering the goals of the Convention. Adequate funding for the ISU and the sponsorship program is decisively important, especially as efforts focus on fulfilling the goals of the convention in the coming years.
- States are to be commended for their commitment to meet the principal goals of the Convention "to the fullest extent possible" by 2025, as expressed in the Maputo Declaration. The ICRC welcomed this pledge and calls on States Parties to do all they can to ensure that it is fulfilled, and an essential part of this is the provisions of resources. The ICRC urges all State Parties able to do so to provide resources and exert influence where necessary to ensure that by 2025 States Parties are landmine free and with no new victims on their territories. No affected State Party should be left behind in this process.
- The ICRC itself can testify to the impact of mine action funding on the lives of mine victims and others affected by armed conflict. We have a presence in most mine affected countries

and operations that often focus on victim assistance, mine risk education, risk reduction and cooperating with partners specialized in clearance.

- In 2016, the ICRC ran or supported some 140 physical rehabilitation projects in some 35 contexts, enabling over hundreds of thousands of people to have access to services. Of these more than 5,800 prostheses were for mine/ERW survivors. The ICRC Moveability fund (formerly Special Fund for the Disabled) supported 27 government and privately run physical rehabilitation centers and 5 institutes that train professions. This resulted in the provision of services to more than 44,000 people in 14 countries.
- ICRC also works to prevent and mitigate the effects of mines and explosive remnants of war. These include risk-reduction initiatives —for example, providing alternative sources of water or firewood to minimize the need for people to obtain them from weapon-contaminated areas, and, in exceptional circumstances and when risks are imminent, deploy specialized teams to survey and clear contaminated areas.
- The ICRC receives funding for these activities through its annual Special Appeal for Disability and Mine Action (97.6 million Chf requested for 2018, plus 6.5 million Chf for the Moveability Fund), and also uses non-earmarked funding from its operational appeal (some 60 million Chf). The ICRC is grateful to donor States for the resources that they have provided.
- As a complement to existing efforts, the ICRC, together with the Belgian Government, has also launched a Humanitarian Impact Bond, an instrument aimed at attracting private social investors to contribute to the work of physical rehabilitation centres. This is another way that the ICRC aims to bring assistance to victims of mines and explosive remnants of war.
- Madam President, action over the next few years will be decisive, if we are to achieve the humanitarian aims of the Convention. The international community must again use its collective determination and harness the remarkable partnership in action, programs and funding.