

**Intersessional Meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty
Statement on Cooperation and Assistance
19 May 2016**



Thank you Mr Chair,

In Maputo we all agreed to finish the job by 2025. Meeting this goal requires continued and effective action by all mine action stakeholders. This must be supported by sustained and sufficient international and national funding. However, as reported by the Landmine Monitor, over the past two years, there has been a decline in international support for mine action.

All States Parties in a position to do so must provide cooperation and assistance to other States Parties for stockpile destruction, clearance, victim assistance and mine risk education. Although the main responsibility for ensuring that treaty obligations are met lies with the state itself, Article 6 recognizes that many States Parties may need assistance to finish the job.

Donor states should provide funding in a timely manner and at a sufficient level, using multi-year agreements where possible. Mine-affected states requiring assistance should present clear plans for the use of international assistance and keep donors regularly informed about progress and challenges. Many treaty obligations can be completed well before 2025 with consistent resources and steady work. Meetings of States Parties and Article 7 transparency reports offer opportunities for affected states and donors to provide regular updates. Following these straightforward steps will both contribute to more efficient programming, but more importantly increase the possibility of finishing the job by 2025.

In that respect, we would like to stress that in addition to securing sufficient funding for the last stretch, together, we need to ensure that funding is targeted and used efficiently. On clearance, for example, this means getting a good understanding of which precise areas contain antipersonnel mines and which areas can be cancelled or reduced through survey. On victim assistance, it means making sure funding reaches those local groups who are making vital referrals that connect landmine victims with sustainable services.

Collaboration between donor and affected states has contributed greatly to the success of the Mine Ban Treaty thus far and must be maintained as we enter the last stretch in the treaty's implementation. Only through our collective and adequately funded efforts can we arrive at a mine-free world in 2025. Thank you.