

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION – INTERSESSIONAL MEETING

22-24 JUNE 2021

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Thematic Session – Mobilizing Resources Towards a Mine-free World

Thursday 24 June

Mr President,

The UK remains a leading donor in mine action. We are committed to assisting States to deliver the objectives of the Convention by supporting the clearance and destruction of anti-personnel landmines, the delivery of risk education, and provision of capacity development for national and provincial authorities.

Under the UK's current Global Mine Action Programme, since 2018 over 394 million square meters of land has been cleared and confirmed safe, and 3.1 million people have received risk education. UK-funded demining will continue to save lives, limbs and livelihoods across the world.

As well as continuing to invest directly through our Global Mine Action Programme, and the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund, the UK is taking further steps to strengthen our collective work to achieve the goals of the Convention. We have funded Social Finance and the HALO Trust to conduct research into innovative sources of funding for mine action. This has considered a range of options including social impact bonds, public-private partnerships and blended finance. The results of

this research will be discussed at a side event today/tomorrow. We look forward to considering next steps on this important agenda with partners across the sector.

The UK is also working on building the evidence base for the impact of mine action, which will help us to understand and maximise our collective impact. This includes research in Afghanistan, which has found a strong causal link between landmine clearance and economic development. This provides encouraging, robust evidence for the positive impact of mine action. The research and an accompanying policy brief are currently being finalised and will be published shortly.

Aligning the way that we articulate and measure impact will help to both build the evidence base and strengthen our strategic impact. To support this, the UK and the Netherlands have worked with partners across the sector to develop a theory of change to describe, measure and enhance the impact of mine action. We will host a side event tomorrow/today [depending on when statement is read] that will introduce the theory of change and outline the ways it could improve mine action outcomes and enhance the collective strategic value of the sector. The event forms part of a sector-wide consultation and participants are invited to provide feedback on ways to strengthen the theory of change.

The UK is looking forward to starting phase 3 of the Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP3) in 2022. GMAP3 will involve landmine clearance and risk education to help affected communities keep safe, and capacity development for national authorities to help them manage their landmine contamination.

In closing, the UK is proud to support the Convention's goals, and to continue to offer substantial assistance to mine action globally, helping to ensure that no one has to live in fear of a misstep. We encourage all States Parties to work together to tackle the scourge of landmines.