

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

(Colombia, Germany, Japan and Sudan)

Intersessional Meetings
22-24 June 2021

I. Purpose, mandate and organisation of the Committee

The Maputo Review Conference established the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance with the following purpose, “to assist the States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, in line with their reaffirmation that ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines is a shared commitment”.

With this purpose in mind the Committee was mandated to “promote cooperation and assistance under the Convention, facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance, and coordinate with other implementation mechanisms established by the States Parties in order to facilitate and accelerate the full implementation of the Convention.”

The Fourth Review Conference expanded the Committee’s mandate to:

- Review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.
- Consider matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work.

II. Strengthening Partnerships

The Committee views the strengthening of partnerships between States in a position to provide assistance, both financial and technical, and States Parties requiring assistance is critical for the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention.

Individualised Approach (IA)

As part of the Committee’s mandate to, in part, “promote cooperation and assistance under the Convention” and to “facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance” the Committee continued its work on

supporting the IA. A one-page description of the IA was included in the Conclusions of the Committee adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.¹

On the margins of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee supported Bosnia and Herzegovina in participating in the IA. Following the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee engaged the Mauritania, a State which the Committees considered could benefit from participating in the IA and who expressed interest in participating. Mauritania held an Individualised Approach meeting on the margins of the 2021 virtual Intersessional Meetings, with the Committee providing support and assistance in drafting the invitation and programme for the event for distribution to selected invitees.

To date, the Committee has supported 13 States Parties in taking advantage of the IA since 2016 including Angola (2018), Cambodia (2019), Croatia (2016), Democratic Republic of the Congo (2020), Mauritania (2021), Niger (2020), Serbia (2018), Sri Lanka (2018), Sudan (2018), Somalia (2018) and Zimbabwe (2017 and 2018), Ecuador (2019), Tajikistan (2019).

National Mine Action Coordination Platforms

The Committee noted that the IA offers a platform for affected States Parties with obligations under the Convention to strengthen partnerships for implementation at a national level. However, a robust national conversation between stakeholders is essential to strengthen and foster partnerships for completion, in line with Action #44 of the Oslo Action Plan in which States Parties commit to “strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. They will consider, where relevant, establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.”

In this regard, the Committee presented a *Sample model for a National Mine Action Platform (NMAP)* to the Fourth Review Conference and continued to promote the establishment of such platforms as an important component to ensuring effective and efficient progress in the implementation of State Party commitments under the Convention.²

Donor Coordination

While mine affected States Parties are ultimately responsible for implementation, it is understood that the donor community can also contribute to the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. This includes by strengthening the coordination of their efforts to support States Parties with their implementation as highlighted by Action #46 of the Oslo Action Plan, which states that “States Parties in a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties.”

In order to promote discussions on this and other matters concerning Cooperation and Assistance on this matter, the Committee decided to hold a panel to look at key components of Cooperation and Assistance,

¹ <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/16MSP/Committee-Coop-Assistance-conclusions-advancecopy-EN.pdf>

² <https://www.osloreviewconference.org/fileadmin/APMBC-RC4/Fourth-Review-Conference/National-mine-action-platforms-en.pdf>

paying particular attention to National Ownership and the implementation of the Cooperation And Assistance commitments of the OAP.

III. Information Sharing

As part of the Committee's mandate to look at the use of information exchange tools to foster partnerships between States Parties, the Committee has been exploring ways in which it can assist states in developing their country pages on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention website to as well as the development of an online reporting tool.

Country web pages

The country pages on the Convention's website enable States Parties to provide information on the development of their national programmes in collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee. The Committee remains ready to assist States Parties in this regard and encourages States Parties to share relevant information care of the Implementation Support Unit.

The Committee encourages States Parties to visit their country websites and to, through the ISU, provide any additional information it may want to highlight concerning its national programme. The Committee presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties some suggested information States Parties may want to consider in this regard.³

Since the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties the ISU has been working to improve the Country web pages as they transition to a new website.

Online reporting tool

The Committee, in an effort to facilitate reporting on the part of States Parties and in an effort to encourage sharing of information continues to examine an online tool for Article 7 reporting.

The online tool for Article 7 reporting would not replace the option to provide reports through the current system, nor would it create additional reporting requirements. The Committee reiterates that the online tool for Article 7 reporting would mirror and complement the Guide to Reporting adopted by the States Parties at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties taking into consideration any updates to the Guide to Reporting following the Fourth Review Conference.

In addition to facilitating the submission of Article 7 reports, it is expected that an online reporting tool would assist in the analysis work of the President and the Convention's Committees and therefore facilitate our collaborative work in the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, the Committee, with the support of the ISU, has been working on the initial iteration of the tool in order to conduct tests and prepare the ground to launch the tool for use by States Parties in 2022.

Article 7 Reports

The Committee has reviewed the Article 7 Reports submitted to 1 June 2021 and welcomes the information submitted by States Parties on implementation of cooperation and assistance measures

³ <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/17MSP/Committee-Coop-Assistance-conclusions-en.pdf>

highlighted in the Oslo Action Plan. The Committee welcomed the provision of information in this regard from Algeria, Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe (attached).

IV. Preliminary observations

The Committee intends to continue its work to fulfil its mandate in line with the identified programme of work moving towards the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

The Committee recognized from the reports received from mine affected States Parties that COVID has affected their operations. In spite of this, mine action efforts have continued and States Parties have reported a lack of financial resources as the key challenge for implementation in line with the aspirations of the States Parties to address time bound obligations, to the furthers extension possible, by 2025.

The Committee welcomes the continued contributions from national authorities of mine-affected States to their national mine action programmes and the contribution of States Parties in a position to provide assistance. It is important that these contributions to be sustained and, in many cases, increase to ensure that we can ensure implementation of the Convention as soon as possible. The Committee also recognizes the importance of looking at innovative financing and welcomes the United Kingdom's efforts to look closely at this matter.

The Committee continues to believe that the IA is an invaluable component of Cooperation and Assistance and, in this regard, the Committee will continue to work with States Parties to take advantage of this platform and to disseminate information on their remaining challenge and need for support. In order to ensure that the IA is a success, the Committee considers it crucial that the interested State Party take the lead and increase its engagement with the Committee and the Implementation Support Unit in the lead up to their IA meeting. As most States Parties have reported on financial resources being the greatest challenges to implementation, the Committee would encourage more States Parties to approach the Committee and participation in the Individualized Approach. While the sole participation in an Individualized Approach will not guarantee financial support, it can form part of the States resource mobilization plan and efforts to share its challenges and initiate a dialogue with partners.

The Committee continues to recognise that the IA is not an end in itself. In this regard, the Committee encourages States Parties to explore the establishment of nationally led National Mine Action Platforms to strengthen stakeholder dialogue and in the lead up to the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties will give specific focus to improving the effectiveness of follow-up activities at both international and national levels. The Committee remains committed to support States Parties in this regard. The Committee would further request States Parties to report on these efforts at the 19MSP.

In addition, the Committee encourages States Parties to continue sharing information through their Article 7 Reports and other means, including the status of implementation, and, if relevant, its needs for cooperation and assistance, to better enable States to meet their obligations under the Convention, to the fullest extent possible, by 2025. The Committee further encourages States Parties in a position to provide assistance to continue including information on support provided in Article 7 Reports to raise awareness and provide avenues for coordination / cooperation. As part of this work, the Committee will continue to work to develop an online reporting tool to facilitate reports. The Committee will also

continue to encourage States Parties to share relevant information through their country pages on the Convention's website.

While affected States Parties are required to do their part by demonstrating and strengthening national ownership by participating in the IA approach and establishing effective National Mine Action Platforms, donor coordination will also be essential to ensure that State Parties receive the support they need to meet the challenges expressed. With this objective, the Committee will continue exploring areas in which donor coordination and partnerships with affected States Parties can be improved.

The Committee also welcomes south-south cooperation and encourages continued efforts in this regard. This is increasingly important with the nascent innovative south-south cooperation fund being established by the President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee further recognizes the importance of strengthening the role regional organizations to promote and support implementation efforts.

Concerning the information submitted by the States Parties in their 2021 Article 7 Reports (Annex):

- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by 13 States Parties – Algeria, Angola, Colombia, Jordan, Peru, Serbia, Slovenia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe – on the commitment of resources to meet Convention obligations as well as alternative sources of funding being explored. Given the Committee's understanding that most States Parties contribute financial or in-kind resources for the implementation of their commitments, the Committee would encourage more mine affected States Parties to report on their efforts to implement #42 of the Oslo Action Plan. Likewise, the committee welcomes reports on innovative sources of funding which could provide guidance to other mine affected States Parties of untapped resource.
- The Committee welcomes information from two States Parties – Colombia and Zimbabwe – on their efforts to mobilize resources and disseminating information on challenges and requirements for assistance. The Committee welcomes this information and encourages more States to provide information on the challenges faced and requirements for assistance in their reports. The Committee further encourages States to take advantage of the individualised approach platforms. (Action #43 of the Oslo Action Plan)
- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by three States Parties – Afghanistan, Colombia and Serbia – on efforts made to promote dialogue among all stakeholders. The Committee views this as a critical element for implementation and encourages other States to report on their efforts in this regard as well as to consider establishing platforms for partnership to enable sustained dialogue with stakeholders. (Action #44 of the Oslo Action Plan)
- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by eighteen States Parties – Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom– on their efforts to provide support to mine clearance and victim assistance activities. (Action #45).
- The Committee also noted that nine States Parties – Australia, Canada, Finland, Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – reported on efforts to

coordinate their support for the effective implementation of the Convention. The Committee further noted that funding was also directed toward existing mechanisms such as the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund and the ICRC's Special Appeal. (Action #46)

- The Committee also welcomes reporting by six States Parties – Australia, Colombia, Finland, Serbia, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom - on cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral. (Action #47) The Committee noted that this cooperation includes the exchange of knowledge, expertise, collaboration on borders, capacity building and exchange visits. The Committee encourages States Parties to continue its efforts to report on these matters and to continue efforts in this regard.
- Finally, the Committee welcomes information provided by 3 States Parties – Canada, Turkey and the United Kingdom – on its efforts to ensure that gender and diversity are integrated in the cooperation and assistance efforts. The Committee encourages States Parties to continue ensuring consideration for gender and diversity in their cooperation and assistance practices.

V. Information provided by States Parties in implementation of the Oslo Action Plan

Action #42 *Do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible alternative and/or innovative sources of funding.*

- **Algeria** reported that despite constraints in financial resources and the impact of COVID-19, the government is committed to overcome difficulties to fulfil its victim assistance commitments and to improve all aspects of victim assistance.
- **Angola** reported that the activities of national operators under the executive demining commission, and CNIDAH remain funded by government of Angola through annual budgetary allocations.
- **Colombia** reported in 2020 through the project “Consolidation of Comprehensive Action Against anti-personnel mines in the framework of post conflict at the national level” Colombia invested a total of COP3.860.150.000 (USD1.124.75228) from its national budget for mine action efforts.
- **Jordan** reported a total national contribution of 220’000 dinars from the government to support the work of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR).
- **Peru** reported that the government allocates around four million soles to fulfil the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention’s obligations, although the budget has suffered a decrease of around one million in 2020 and 2021.
- **Serbia** reported that the Government of Serbia has originally allocated around 350,000 EUR from the state budget for demining operations but that due to the coronavirus crisis and government measures in the fight against the consequences of the crisis, the demining budget was decreased to 260.000 EUR. Serbia further reported that funds were matched through ITF Enhancing Human Security with available donor funds (the US donation).

Serbia further reported that, as a national mine action coordination authority, the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) requested the Government to continue to allocate funds for Serbia to fulfil its Article 5

obligations. Serbia also reported that despite the economic and overall situation, the Serbian Government has taken ownership of the problem, by continuously allocating of funds for demining operations including the allocation of 260.000 EUR for demining operations in 2021. These funds have been transferred to ITF to match the funds with donor funds (Republic of Korea donation). Nonetheless, Serbia indicated that, international support is needed in order to address the remaining contamination.

- **Slovenia** reported that while it has not obtained resources from alternative and/or innovative sources to meet the Convention's obligations, the ITF Enhancing Human Security, supported by Slovenia, engages a variety of partners – international and local public and private companies, non-governmental organisations and individuals to donate funds for its operations in developing countries.
- **Sudan** reported that in 2020, the government has contributed to the Sudan Mine Action Programme through the National Mine Action Centre with a total of 2 million USD, including support to staff salaries and operational cost and in support survey and clearance activities, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance and capacity development, amongst others.
- **Tajikistan** reported that the government provides an annual contribution of \$480,000 Mine Action activities in Tajikistan
- **Thailand** reported that it continues to provide the majority of the mine action budget of more than USD 7,500,000 annually. Thailand reported that other than the annual budget, the Royal Thai Government provides additional funding for the procurement of equipment. Thailand reported that in 2020 it procured, through government funding, additional equipment comprising 5 high performance mountain bikes, 40 handheld GPS, 6 satellite phones, 5 mine detection dogs, 12 All-In-One Desktop PC, 6 Inkjet Printers, 12 handheld grass cutting machines, and 1 grass cutting vehicle. This equipment was worth nearly USD 35,000. In 2021, TMAC is requesting an additional USD 43,000 to procure an additional high-performance mountain bikes, handheld radios, and additional drones for aerial survey. Thailand further reported that though the majority of humanitarian mine action activities in Thailand are self-funded by the Royal Thai Government, Thailand still welcomes additional support, especially in terms of necessary equipment, mine detectors, newer technologies and innovation, as well as additional survey teams. This will help enhance the capacity of the mine clearance operations and expedite the ongoing progress for Thailand to become mine-free in a timely manner.
- **Turkey** reported that the Ministry of National Defence (MoND) approved annual allocation of additional 53.217.000 TL national budget for demining to be used from 2020 until 2025. Turkey also reported that, in addition to the budget for 2020-2025, MoND allocated an additional 25.000.000 TL in order to conduct a mine clearance project in Mardin province with a contracting modality during 2022-2023.
- **The United Kingdom** reported that, in 2020, it started a research project to look into alternative sources of finance for the mine action sector, beyond traditional donor Official Development Assistance in order to achieve the aims of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and the 2008 Cluster Munitions Convention with the report to be completed in the first half of 2021 and next steps discussed with the sector.

- **Zimbabwe** reported that the National Mine Clearance Units are currently wholly funded by the Government through a dedicated annual vote in the national budget with this funding guaranteed at current level until clearance is complete. Zimbabwe reported that the Ministry of Defence covers the deployment and human resource costs through the normal army channels. Chances are there for improved funding once the economy improves. However, Zimbabwe reported that the Unit seeks an increase in funding to replace its detectors which have since passed their useful stage.

Action #43 *States Parties seeking assistance will develop resource mobilization plans and use all mechanisms within the Convention to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance, including through their annual Article 7 transparency reports and by taking advantage of the Individualised approach.*

- **Colombia** reported that in 2020 Colombia worked on formulating a resource mobilization strategy to address the gaps in funding of current assigned tasks which corresponds to 53% of the operations carried out by civilian organizations. Within the framework of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Sustaining Peace in Colombia a proposal was put forward for the creation of a platform for Comprehensive Mine Action which will include discussions on resource mobilization.
- **Zimbabwe** reported that the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre and Mine Action Stakeholders developed a Communication and Resource Mobilisation Strategy document which was approved by Government in 2019. Zimbabwe reported that the launch of the Strategy was scheduled in May 2020 but that due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was deferred. Zimbabwe reported that, the Government will continue to fund demining operations by NMCU and that in order to meet the 2025 goal, funding support for HALO Trust, MAG, NPA and APOPO from the international community will be solicited at all opportunities.

Action #44 *States Parties will strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention.*

- **Afghanistan** reported that it organizes a monthly stakeholder meeting in which MAPA donors, Mine Action Implementation Partners, UNMAS and DMAC management team.
- **Colombia** reported that it has established a platform for continued monthly coordination that permits a direct dialogue with humanitarian demining operations to facility operations in the field. Colombia reported that in 2020 Colombia held 238 coordination meetings, both in-person and virtual, due to the ongoing pandemic.
- **Serbia** reported that the Serbian Mine Action Centre cooperates closely with the Bujanovac local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, in particular Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence, the Governmental Office for Kosovo and Metohija, as well as Embassies of donor countries.

Action #45 *States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance to other States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention, in line with their development policies.*

- **Australia** reported having contributed AUD 9.4 million in mine action support to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq and Syria. This includes support to mine clearance, mine risk education, capacity

development, physical security and stockpile management, stockpile destruction and victim assistance. This support was provided through non-governmental organizations, the UNDP and UNMAS.

- **Belgium** reported having contributed 3,936,653 EUR in mine action support to Angola, Iraq and Syria as well as providing funding to the *ICRC's Special Appeal: Disability and Mine Action*. This includes support to mine clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance. This support was provided through non-governmental organizations, ICRC and UNMAS.

Belgium reported also contributing in 2020 to global programs of Handicap International and to the Disability and Mine Action Special Appeal of the ICRC earmarked for the DRC.

- **Canada** reported having contributed \$14,002,281 in mine action support to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, and global support. This includes support to mine clearance, community liaison, mine risk education, national implementation support, victim assistance, strengthening Universalization and implementation of the Ottawa Convention and the Convention and Cluster Munition. This support was provided through non-governmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS.
- **Finland** reported having contributed a total of 3.6 million Euros to support mine action activities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Ukraine. This includes support to survey and clearance, risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy. This support was provided through international civil society organizations and multilateral organizations such as UNMAS, the ICRC and the GICHD. Finland also reported making a voluntary contribution of 10, 000 Euros to the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Finland reported directing part of its mine action budget (0,53 MEUR) to the ICRC Special Appeal on Mines and Disabilities for Syria and Ukraine. Finland further reported that humanitarian and development efforts are funded within other budget lines.

- **Germany** reported having contributed 47,271,034.23 EUR in mine action support to Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. This includes support to mine clearance, mine risk education, capacity development, physical security and stockpile management, stockpile destruction and victim assistance. This support was provided through non-governmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS.
- **Ireland** reported that it contributed 3.27 million EUR in mine action support to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. Ireland also provided €20,000 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention ISU in 2020, to support its work in implementation and universalisation.
- **Italy** reported having contributed approximately 4,190,733 Euros in mine action support to Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Global support . This includes support to mine clearance, mine risk education, capacity development, and victim assistance. This support was provided through non-governmental organizations, the GICHD, International Committee of the Red Cross and OAS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMAS, WHO.

- **Japan** reported having contributed, from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021, a total of 38,977,953 USD in mine action support to Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Nigeria, Palau, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. This includes support to mine clearance, mine risk education, capacity development, physical security and stockpile management, stockpile destruction and victim assistance. This support was provided through non-governmental and governmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS.
- **Lithuania** reported that it provides in kind support through the NATO PfP Trust Fund Project to Support Practical Cooperation with Ukraine in the Area of medical Rehabilitation.
- **The Netherlands** reported that through its “Mine Action and Cluster Munitions II” multi-annual programme (2020-2024), the Netherlands is contributing a total of 51 million Euros to NGO partners MAG, DDG, the HALO Trust, Humanity and Inclusion and the GICHD for mine action activities in Iraq, Lebanon, South Sudan, Libya, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Somalia, Syria and Laos. The Netherlands indicate that in 2020, the contribution to NGOs totalled 4,427,519 Euros.

The Netherlands further reported that it provides annual unearmarked contribution to the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund.

- **New Zealand** reported having contributed approximately 4,190,733 Euros in mine action support to Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Global support . This includes support to mine clearance, mine risk education, capacity development, and victim assistance. This support was provided through non-governmental organizations, the GICHD, International Committee of the Red Cross and OAS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMAS, WHO.

New Zealand reported that in 2020 it provided the following support:

- an annual non-earmarked contribution of NZ\$1.5 million, to the UNMAS-administered Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF), to support UNMAS’ coordination and implementation of mine action initiatives.
- An annual non-earmarked contribution of NZ\$2.5 million to the ICRC to support its work, including physical rehabilitation and preventative unexploded ordnance action programmes which focus on risk education and advocacy.
- Support to UNDP Lao trust fund to clear 550 hectares of Unexploded Ordnances (UXO) in Xieng Khouang Province each year and provides a New Zealand Technical Adviser to deliver training, monitoring and quality assurance, in conjunction with UXO Lao (the Lao national clearance operator). The NZ\$11.1 million four-year activity (2016-2020) has been extended for four years (2021-2024), providing NZ\$11.5 million further assistance to clear an additional 2,200 hectares of priority land. A grant payment of NZ\$4 million was made in December 2020.
- NZ\$6 million over six years (2020-2025) to the UNDP’s multi-donor funded Clearing for Results (CfR) Project in Cambodia. A NZ\$2 million grant payment was made in 2020.

- Support to the HALO Trust mine clearance operation in Colombia with a grant payment of NZ\$450,000 in 2020, with a further contribution of NZ\$450,000 to be made in 2021.
- US\$650,000 (equivalent of NZ\$1m) towards UNMAS' Iraq programme, and committed to providing two further contributions of NZ\$500,000 each in 2021 and 2022. New Zealand also continued to support the placement of a New Zealand explosive threat mitigation adviser within UNMAS Iraq. Support for this role, which began in June 2018, and costs around US\$ 350,000 per year, has been extended to mid-2022.
- New Zealand has contracted the Organisation for Mine clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR) NZ\$5.3 million to support the clearance of the five firing ranges in Bamyán Province. This support began in 2020 and work is expected to be completed in 2022 with the project running ahead of schedule. As of October 2020, OMAR had cleared 684 unexploded ordnance/explosive remnants of war, the majority of which pre-dated New Zealand's deployment to Bamyán.
- New Zealand contributed US\$445,000 (NZ\$700,000) in 2020 towards provision by UNMAS of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in the West Bank.
- \$1.5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2020 for its emergency operations in Syria, including medical assistance to conflict-affected people.
- **Poland** reported that since 2015 it has provided funding for post conflict reconstruction and risk-awareness in the Gaza Strip through UNMAS having contributed since this time 290'000 USD, of which approximately 54'000 USD was provided in 2020. Poland further reported that the fund is compliant with Poland's national multi-year development assistance programme covering 2021-2030.
- **Slovakia** reported that it provided a financial contribution of 50,000 EUR to mine action activities in Iraq with this support being provided through UNMAS.
- **Slovenia** reported that, in 2020, it provided the following support:
 - 70'000 EUR to the operations of the ITF Representative Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
 - 170'000 EUR to support mine risk education programmes in Jordan for Syrian refugees in Irbid province in north-west Jordan.
 - Slovenia continuously provides core support to the operations of ITF Enhancing Human security (230.000 EUR in 2020) in affected States Parties
 - In 2019, Slovenia started to support the implementation of a project addressing humanitarian needs of internally displaced people and communities, endangered by explosive hazards in northeast Syria with contribution of EUR 300.000 for a total value of the project over EUR 2 million, majority financed by Austrian ADA. The activities will continue with a new project, signed early 2021 aimed at mine clearance and reviving agriculture in cleared areas in northeast Syria (Ar Raka, Al Hasakah and Deir ez Zor) – a two-year project worth EUR 200.000

Slovenia reported that it provides support to victims (specifically of mines, but also more generally of armed conflicts) in Ukraine and Palestine, but in 2020, two activities (Ukraine) had to be cancelled due to travel restrictions and one activity (Palestine) has (partly) been reprogrammed to help satisfy the COVID-19-related needs. The activities have been financed from the ODA budget and cost around 55.000 EUR per annum (Ukraine) and 70.000 EUR per annum (Palestine) respectively.

- **Spain** reported contributing 24'000 EUR to the work of the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 25'000 EUR to the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund for mine action activities in Western Sahara.
- **Sweden** reported having contributed approximately SEK 90 780 000 in mine action support to Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine Yemen and Zimbabwe. This includes support to mine clearance, mine risk education, capacity development, and victim assistance. This support was provided through non-governmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS.
- **Switzerland** reported having contributed CHF 17 million in mine action support including 7.55 million to mine action projects in 10 States Parties – Colombia, Mali, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ukraine, South Sudan, The DRC, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Cambodia – and 5 non-States Parties/other territories – Georgia, Myanmar, Western Sahara, Kosovo, Syria. This includes support to mine clearance, mine risk education, capacity development, victim assistance and the promotion and respect for international commitments in line with its Mine Action Strategy 2016-2022.

During the reporting period, Switzerland reported that maintained its political and financial support and contributed CHF 9.45 million to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining GICHD. The organisation acts as a facilitator, strategic advisor, research body and think tank in the field of mine action (including ERW). The Implementation Support Units (ISU), which serve the States Parties to the APMBC and to the CCM, are hosted by the GICHD, which covers the rental, administrative, and logistical costs. This in-kind contribution (about CHF 0.5 million per annum) is covered by Switzerland's core contribution to the GICHD.

- **The United Kingdom** reported that its “mine action” programmes collectively cover the clearance of cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive remnants of war, alongside risk education and other activities and that it is not possible to separate out funds spent relating to anti-personnel mines alone. The United Kingdom reported having contributed £57,982,766.08 in Mine action support to Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Libya, Georgia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Ukraine, Angola, Cambodia, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Laos, Lebanon, South Sudan, Vietnam, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and Yemen . This includes support to mine clearance, mine risk education, capacity development, physical security and stockpile management, stockpile destruction and victim assistance. This support was provided through non-governmental organizations and the UN Voluntary Trust Fund.

The UK champions the rights of victims of landmines and cluster munitions, as well as other people with disabilities, through our global leadership and programming on disability inclusion. Our inclusive approach removes the risk of discriminating based on the cause of a person's disability. The UK has been working to implement its 2018 Disability Inclusion Strategy.

The UK is also investing to promote disability inclusion, for example AT scale, a global partnership for assistive technology, was launched at the 2018 Global Disability Summit with UK funding. Its ambition

is that by 2030 over 500 million people will have access to life-changing assistive technology, such as wheelchairs and prosthetics. This will be achieved by tackling market access barriers and creating an enabling ecosystem for access to assistive technology.

Action #46 *States Parties in a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties.*

- **Australia** reported that during the reporting period, in Cambodia, Australia worked with other donors to ensure effective coordination and cooperation. Australia also reported that it participated in meetings of the Mine Action Support Group, which seeks to coordinate international responses to ERW contamination and that it is also an active supporter of the UNMAS and made financial contributions to UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund.
- **Canada** actively participates in the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), in an effort to coordinate its support for the effective implementation of the Convention with other States Parties in a position to provide assistance.
- **Finland** reported that, their contribution is channelled through international civil society organizations and multilateral organizations such as UNMAS, the ICRC and the GICHD.

Finland reported that it funds humanitarian mine action activities are part of wider multi-donor programmes, which ensures that activities are coordinated in-country and with local authorities, thus avoiding duplication and to achieve maximum effect with granted based on the needs identified by implementing organizations and in line with affected states' national plans. Finland also reported being a member of the MASG, a group of donor states that convenes regularly to discuss topical issues and developments in the sector.

- **Estonia** reported that in 2020, Estonia contributed to UNMAS for mine action activities in Iraq and Syria in the amount of 30 000 USD.
- **Italy** reported that it provides contributions through UNMAS voluntary trust fund as well as well as through the ICRC's Special Appeal – Disability and Mine Action.
- **Lithuania** reported that it provides in kind support through the NATO PfP Trust Fund Project to Support Practical Cooperation with Ukraine in the Area of medical Rehabilitation.
- **The Netherlands** reported that part of their contribution is provided through the UNMAS VTF.
- **Switzerland** reported that it regularly participates in the in-country coordination platforms. It also regularly participates in the works of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG)
- **The United Kingdom** reported that in designing its Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP) programming, DFID continues to take into account of the geographic and strategic balance of other donors' funding to ensure that UK support helps a variety of affected State Parties meet their Convention obligations and that UK funding is being put to best use.

The United Kingdom further reported that DFID maintains regular contact with other donors on a variety of mine action programming and policy issues to ensure they are aligned and working in coordination with national partners globally. This includes coordinating closely on key issues and sharing lessons learnt and best practice from GMAP2 programming. The United Kingdom continues to use the Mine Action Support Group to promote improved coordination and regular dialogue and that in 2020 presented to the MASG the work being done delivered alongside the Government of the Netherlands to align the way that the impact of mine action is measured.

Action #47 *Continuously explore opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Cooperation of this kind may include making mutually supporting clearance commitments in border areas, sharing experience of integrating gender and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account into programming, and, in line with Article 6, exchanging equipment, material and scientific and technological information (or donating them after one State Party reaches completion) in order to promote the implementation of the Convention.*

- **Australia** reported that it participates in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA), which promotes practical cooperation and builds regional humanitarian mine action capacity.

Australia reported that in the 2017-2020 cycle, the Defence Force participated in all EWG meetings, and sent 11 Australian Defence Force personnel to a field training exercise in Indonesia. During the reporting period, in the Republic of Korea, the Australian Defence Force worked with other nation-states supporting the comprehensive military agreement (CMA) through the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) to support de-mining activities in the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ).

- **Colombia** reported that activities planned within the framework of South-South Cooperation efforts between Colombia, JICA and Cambodia (2017 -2022), capacity building activities were postponed to 2021, due to the global pandemic
- **Finland** reported supporting regional and south-to-south cooperation through financial support to the GICHD, and its regional cooperation programmes (Arabic Regional Cooperation Programme; Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Regional Cooperation Programme) including supporting the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt among countries.
- **Serbia** reported that while it is not in a position to provide financial assistance, it is able to share experience and lessons learned concerning mine survey/clearance and training. Serbia reported that it retains vast expertise in mine clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasking, and quality control and governing of demining project tasks.

Serbia reported that in 2020 Angola approached Serbia with a request to assist them in dealing with mine clearance related challenges in Angola. Serbia offered to organize training courses in the newly established SMAC Training Centre pending financial support. Furthermore, SMAC offered to lead discussions between relevant Angola authorities and Serbian demining companies which are capable of conducting demining operations in Angola, again, pending financial support clearance operations.

- **Tajikistan** reported that it continues to share lessons learned with regard to mine clearance and assistance to victims of anti-personnel mines including through south-south cooperation in the areas of demining, victim assistance, information management and gender.

Tajikistan reported that it cooperates and provides assistance to the national mine center of Afghanistan in the field of humanitarian mine action in the border areas between Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Tajikistan reported that it provides assistance to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan in determining the perimeter of a hazardous area. Tajikistan further reported on support to the OSCE in conducting regional training for personnel from Ukraine, Mongolia and Afghanistan.

- **The United Kingdom** reported that in June 2020, FCDO's Monitoring and Evaluation provider for GMAP2, Itad, organised a meeting with key stakeholders across the mine action sector focused on expanding the evidence base on the impact of mine action. This evidence-building work is part of FCDO's commitment to lesson learning through GMAP2. In 2020, FCDO published a range of documents contributing to best practices and lesson sharing: a cross-programme 'Formative Evaluation' and two GMAP2 Annual Review reports (2018 and 2019).

Gender and Diversity

- **Canada** reported that its feminist policy ensures that all security-related programming must include gender mainstreaming in all aspects, including indicators and project outcomes. This is then captured through programming reporting.
- **Switzerland** reported that gender plays a prominent role in Switzerland's mine action strategy and it is mainstreamed in the projects it supports. The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has also adopted a Strategy on Gender equality and Women's rights.
- **Thailand** reported that Thailand and Cambodia are driving demining cooperation forward to pave the way for future demining cooperation along the border. The "Pilot Project on Demining Cooperation along the Border of Thailand and Cambodia", which was carried out between March – April 2020 enables the Humanitarian Mine Action Unit 1 to release additional 95,000 square meters in Sa-no Noi Village, Tha-kham Subdistrict, Aranyaprathet District, Sa Kaeo Province, Thailand, while CMAC Demining Unit 1 could release 123,810 square meters in Kilekbuwan Village, Psagondal Subdistrict, Poi Pet District, Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia.

Thailand –reported that it continues to participate in various workshops and meetings organised under the ASEAN framework – mostly virtual meetings in compliance with the COVID – 19 prevention measures and that this enables Thailand to show its commitment to mine clearance works and serves as a platform for best practice and experience sharing. This includes Thailand's participation in Steering Committee of ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC),

- **Turkey** reported that Gender and diversity are taken into consideration in all mine action activities in Turkey. Turkey reported that a total of 45% of Turkish Mine Action Centre personnel are female (three of them branch chiefs) but that at the moment there are no female personnel in the military demining units. Turkey reported that civilian contractors are encouraged and advised to operate with female personnel with, for example, all medics and information management personnel of demining

contractor in EBMCP Phase-2 being female. The demining and border management projects are designed to promote equality and combating discrimination. The project documents define activities with specific indicators which enable equitable gender participation. All reports provide disaggregated data by age and gender. As an example, the upcoming EBMCP Phase-3 Project Document covers a dedicated section of activities aiming this topic.

- **The United Kingdom** reported that it is a leader in developing policies to address gender related issues and is committed to politically empower women and girls as change agents and leaders, as articulated in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO's) Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, the UK's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the World Humanitarian Summit Commitments.

The United Kingdom reported that, in line with the UK's legislative commitments under the Gender Equality Act, FCDO continues to promote and mainstream gender equality through GMAP2 and ensure that mine action programming is attuned to the different needs of men, women, boys and girls in the following ways: operator employment practices, mine action organisations that FCDO funds should ensure the staff they engage are reflective of, and responsive to, the gender demographics in local communities.

The United Kingdom reported that the FCDO expects their chosen suppliers to demonstrate a commitment to gender and social inclusion in employment practices in each country of operation. FCDO promotes and encourages the employment of as many female deminers as possible. In 2020 FCDO's funding supported partners in Sri Lanka to offer leadership training which trains women to become leaders in the minefield and in their communities. They are also targeting women for medical skills training.

The United Kingdom reported that their partners in Somaliland have supported and encouraged women from minority clans to complete mine clearance training and they now have women from the Gabooye clan, who are a particularly marginalised clan working on the Inaa Guuxa and Duruqsi minefields.

The United Kingdom reported that in South Sudan there are a number of women working in demining teams and that its partners delivered a leadership training course to support women to apply for leadership positions within the country programme.

The United Kingdom further reported that all FCDO's programme indicators are disaggregated by gender as far as possible and where appropriate. FCDO request this information from their implementing partners on a quarterly basis in order to monitor impact effectively.