

**Clearance and Risk Education**  
**Gender and Diversity Working Group**

Thank you Chair. I am pleased to be taking the floor on behalf of the twelve member organizations of the Gender and Diversity Working Group. We have appreciated working with the Colombian presidency to put an emphasis on gender and diversity in the implementation of the convention this year.

We are now half way through the Oslo Action Plan. What do we have to show for it?

There has been some progress, of course, but we are concerned that we are falling well behind on achieving the best practice contained in the OAP

Action 18, indicator 2 of the Oslo Action Plan measures the percentage of affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The results of the Convention's OAP monitoring, show that 21% of affected states parties met this indicator in 2020; dropping to 18% in 2021; but rising to 42% in 2022. Mine Action Review, which conducts parallel civil society monitoring of OAP indicators relating to survey and clearance, found that for this same indicator 47% of affected states parties met this indicator.

While it is positive that percentage of affected States meeting this indicator has increased since 2020, every affected State must ensure that its methodology for survey is inclusive, which calls for age- and gender-appropriate consultations at local level, as well as inclusion of marginalised groups.

Mine Action Review also found that 47% of affected states have national work plans or strategies that integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account, in line with Action 3, indicator 1 of the OAP. We want to see this rise to 100% of affected States Parties, by the Fifth Review conference in 2024.

This community has the ability to ensure efficient and effective survey and clearance by using inclusive practices. We know that hiring demining teams that reflect the diversity of the population is a key to making progress. Despite concerns from some, including women in mine action does not affect the effectiveness of operations. A study by GICHD and Fenix Insight released this year found that "there is no meaningful difference in terms of operational productivity between men and women working in technical survey and clearance."

It is very valuable to have this data to back up the anecdotal understanding we have from our experience as operators.

We know what needs to be done so now is the time to get to work.

Thank you.