



**20th Meeting of States Parties to the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Agenda item 10(c): Cooperation and Assistance

**Statement by Nicholas Clutterbuck
First Secretary (Disarmament)**

22 November 2022

Thank you President,

As this is the first time I have taken the floor, please allow me to extend Aotearoa New Zealand's appreciation to you – and your team – for your work and commitment to the Anti-Personel Mine Ban Convention. We wish you well, as you guide our work this week.

This year we celebrate 25 years since the historic adoption of our treaty. Over that time, 164 states have bound themselves never to use, stockpile or transfer landmines. We have all undertaken to share information and pursue international cooperation, clear large swathes of contaminated land, and advance victim assistance and mine risk education.

Each of these actions has helped the world advance towards a world free from mines, and end once-and-for-all the human suffering caused by these inhumane weapons.

And yet, 25 years after adoption of our Convention, these weapons continue to leave profound impacts on victims and communities in affected states.

In 2021, more than five-and-a-half thousand people were killed or injured by mines and explosive remnants of war around the world.

These cruel weapons destroy livelihoods. They instill fear in communities who live amongst them. They undermine peacebuilding efforts, and they stymie implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For the Treaty to continue reducing civilian harm around the world, it is vital that we accelerate our work in line with the Oslo Action Plan.

President, New Zealand has been proud to play its part in supporting mine clearance in a number of the most heavily mined areas of the world. In South East Asia, in the Middle East, and in Latin America.

Over our last financial year, New Zealand has been pleased to contribute over 6.5 million New Zealand dollars to mine clearance activities. This has included direct support to national demining agencies and clearance operators to build capacity and national ownership, as well as support to the critical work of the UN Mine Action Service, the UN Development Programme and the HALO Trust.

Over that time, New Zealand's activity has included individualised contributions to Iraq, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Colombia, as well as to support New Zealand technical advisers within the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, a separate technical adviser within the Lao PDR National Regulatory Authority for the Mine Action Sector, and a further adviser within UNMAS Iraq.

We are proud to have partnered with these countries, and organisations, over the last year and look forward to that continuing.

President, the progress we've been able to achieve over the last 25 years is in large part thanks to the tireless work of the mine action sector, whether governments, NGOs, civil society and representatives of affected communities and victims, around the world. Their sacrifices, often in the face of significant personal danger, should be a guiding light for our continued work as we move ever closer to the realisation of a mine-free world.

I thank you.