

Gender and Diversity Working Group Statement to 2023 Pledging Conference

Thank you, Mr. President.

I am pleased to take the floor on behalf of the 13 members of the Gender and Diversity Working Group which include Amputee Self-Help Network Uganda (ASNU), Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Danish Church Aid, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, The HALO Trust, Humanity and Inclusion, International Campaign to Ban Landmines-Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC), Mines Action Canada, Mines Advisory Group, Mine Action Review, Norwegian People's Aid, SEHLAC (Seguridad Humana en Latino América y el Caribe) and my own organization Danish Refugee Council.

We are pleased to see such strong support for the Mine Ban Treaty here today. At a time when the rule based international order is being challenged and we are seeing rising landmine casualties in some parts of the world, the pledges and statements today provide evidence of the continued commitment and importance of investing in human security - something which is more important than ever.

Although world events are shrinking many budgets, we would like to remind you that investing in inclusive mine action will have immediate and long-term benefits for affected communities. Now is the time to ensure that all activities are as inclusive as possible. We cannot afford to leave people behind or not utilize all the available expertise to achieve our goal of a world without landmines and safe for all.

Integrating diversity considerations such as gender, age, and disability in mine action will not only support the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan, but also of other international commitments that many States Parties have made, such as but not limited to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

States Parties are encouraged to seek links with other conventions and policy frameworks, to share data, best practices and challenges and report on the gender and diversity mainstreaming initiatives they are undertaking. This way, States Parties will maximize their efforts, promote cross-sector advancement, and use their resources efficiently.

With the Review Conference next year, it is crucial that we work as inclusively as possible to ensure efficiency and effectiveness as well as meet our shared goal to leave no one behind. The Gender and Diversity Working Group remains available to support this work.