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ICRC

**Eighth Annual Pledging Conference to Support the Implementation of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
24 March 2023**

Statement of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Since its entry into force in 1999, the Convention has helped save lives and prevent injuries from anti-personnel mines and release vast areas of contaminated land for productive use through mine clearance.

Yet, we still have a long way to go to fulfill the humanitarian promises of this landmark treaty. Past and new uses of anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature, continue to injure and kill civilians, destroy livelihoods and threaten the staff and operations of humanitarian organizations.

To save lives and limbs and remove the threat from anti-personnel mines once and for all, mine clearance must continue and, indeed, accelerate. The needs of mine survivors and affected communities must also be met. It is incumbent on all of us to redouble our efforts in promoting and defending the humanitarian norms enshrined in the Convention, cooperating with a view to its faithful implementation and achieving universal adherence.

To overcome longstanding and new challenges, we must build on the achievements and insights gained over the past decades, including the best practices identified in the Oslo Action Plan. The sustained commitment and partnerships between mine affected States and States assisting them have been key to progress so far. The ICRC urges all States Parties in a position to do so to provide the resources and exert the influence necessary to fully realize the Convention's humanitarian aims.

Ensuring that, both, the Implementation Support Unit and the Sponsorship Program are endowed with adequate funds will be critical to this endeavor. They both play an important role in supporting States Parties and furthering the goals of the Convention. The ICRC commends them for their efforts.

The ICRC is proud to have been part of the process that led to the adoption of the Convention. Together with the wider Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we continue to work for its universalization and implementation. We are present in most mine-affected countries where we conduct mine risk education and reduction, cooperate with authorities and partners specialized in clearance activities, provide physical rehabilitation services or contribute to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims and other persons with disabilities to substantially improve their quality of life.

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The ICRC receives funding for these activities through its Annual Appeal and, in particular, its [Special Appeal for Disability and Mine Action](#). Mine action funding can have a profound impact on the lives of victims and other persons affected by armed conflict.

For example, 20-year-old Aung, who lost his right leg to a mine in Myanmar, started physical rehabilitation at the ICRC's Programme in Sittwe last year. He is hopeful about his future and told us: "it is going to take a while for me to fully recover" but "I will continue to pursue my dreams." He plans to learn English and acquire computer skills.

We are grateful to be partnering with many in the public and private sectors to deliver high quality services to people and communities. Thank you to all our donors.

At the 20th Meeting of States Parties, ICRC Vice-President, Gilles Carbonnier, recalled that "we owe it to the countless past and future victims of anti-personnel mines to redouble our efforts around the Convention."

It is vital that the international community harnesses the remarkable partnership in action, programs and funding to fulfil the Convention's promise of ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

Thank you.