



Statement delivered by the HALO Trust under agenda item 4. Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Thank you Chair.

Afghanistan remains HALO's oldest and largest programme. We are as committed to the people of Afghanistan as we have ever been, especially in the face of increases in accidents to civilians. As access has opened up in previously inaccessible areas, new minefields are being located on a regular basis, particularly those involving landmines of an improvised nature.

We note the comments made by our colleagues and friends at the Mine Action Review. HALO, as always, welcomes their work and is pleased to sit on the Review's Advisory Board.

We are mindful of the important role played by national demining organisations in Afghanistan. It is important to recall that the United Nations VTF is not the only route to support national demining organisations. There is the OCHA Afghan Humanitarian Fund, bilateral funding where it remains an option for donors, and also routing funding to national implementing partners through larger operators. HALO is one of them.

Regardless of UN funding, the oversight and management of mine action in Afghanistan would benefit from greater consistency of funding. We acknowledge the diplomatic difficulties facing many States Parties, but note that coordination is primarily a practical and operational problem in need of urgent resolution.

Thank you.