

## **MAG Statement**

*Check against delivery.*

Thank you, Mr Chair,

as a humanitarian organisation engaged in mine action at global, regional, national and local levels, we would like to provide some reflections on the international cooperation and assistance for the implementation of this Convention for the security and prosperity of people and communities.

As we look towards the upcoming Review Conference, we are at an important turning point. We should take stock of the lessons learnt from the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan, but, equally importantly, we should reflect on how the Convention can evolve to continue to provide human security, even in challenging times.

Despite the current situation of the international community, we should not forget that effective and meaningful implementation cannot happen without the necessary funds. In the last two days, we have been hearing several States reporting on the difficulties due to the actual or projected lack of funds to fulfil their Convention obligations, which ultimately means leaving people and communities behind and ultimately undermining the true purpose of the Convention.

We would particularly like to highlight the need for investment not only in survey and clearance but also in capacity development, including information management and data collection. Community liaison activities, including risk education and non-technical survey, should be prioritised as they can reduce the immediate impact on civilians. These activities are critical to effectively map out the extent of mine contamination and thus deliver more efficient clearance. In some other instances, these are the only activities that can improve people's and communities' security when no other interventions are yet possible.

The development of sustainable and context-sensitive national capacities that drive to national ownership is central for the fulfilment of the Convention's obligations. MAG, for example, is engaged in the delivery and capacity development of non-technical survey and support to information management in Mauritania, Senegal and Guinea Bissau, thanks to the support of Norway, the Netherlands, and Sweden. It is only through national ownership and sustainable national capacity development that the promises of the Convention can remain credible and, ultimately, be achieved. We encourage States Parties to prioritise this issue in the next review conference.

Mr Chair,

Looking to the future, completion is on the horizon for some countries, but the fulfilment of Article-5 obligations should not be a mere ticking-box exercise. Completion is about people, including those brave and generous women and men, the majority of whom are from the most-vulnerable mine affected communities, who dedicated part of their lives to clear their country. They should not be left behind. As we heard yesterday, responsible staff demobilisation is a reality in Sri Lanka, and we would like to encourage all to include similar activities in many other programmes.

This Convention is unique as it started a disarmament aimed at guaranteeing the security of all women, girls, men, and boys that live where landmines can take or change their lives forever. The Convention should continue to drive the humanitarian disarmament field by applying its principles and norms to new challenges, including improvised landmine contamination. For this reason, we

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would like to encourage States to support all the efforts that allow all stake holders, including those at regional and national level, to maintain the principles and norms of this Convention alive and meaningfully and effectively implemented. To leave no one behind, now and in the future.

Thank you, Mr Chair.