

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

(Algeria, Japan, Thailand (Chair), the Netherlands)

#### Intersessional Meetings

19– 21 June 2023

#### I. Purpose, mandate and organisation of the Committee

The Maputo Review Conference established the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance with the following purpose, “to assist the States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, in line with their reaffirmation that ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines is a shared commitment”.

With this purpose in mind the Committee was mandated to, “promote cooperation and assistance under the Convention, facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance, and coordinate with other implementation mechanisms established by the States Parties in order to facilitate and accelerate the full implementation of the Convention.”

The Fourth Review Conference expanded the Committee’s mandate to:

- Review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.
- Consider matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work.

#### II. Strengthening Partnerships

The Committee views the strengthening of partnerships between States Parties and other actors in a position to provide assistance, both financial and technical, and States Parties requiring assistance is critical for the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention.

##### Individualised Approach (IA)

As part of the Committee’s mandate to, in part, “promote cooperation and assistance under the Convention” and to “facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance” the Committee continued its work on supporting the IA. A one-page description of the IA was included in the Conclusions of the Committee adopted at the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (attached).

Ahead of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee supported South Sudan in participating in the IA. The Committee also supported South Sudan in finalizing the Final Report and

instructed the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to upload the Report and presentations on South Sudan's country page on the Convention's website, in line with Action #43 of the Oslo Action Plan which stipulates, in part, that "States Parties will share the outcomes of the individualised approach with the wider mine action community in order to maximise its impact." <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/membership/south-sudan/individualised-approach/>

Following the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee engaged Senegal who expressed interest in participating in the Individualized Approach. Senegal will hold an IA discussion in the margins of the 2023 Intersessional Meetings, with the Committee providing support and assistance in drafting the invitation and programme for the event for distribution to selected invitees.

To date, the Committee has supported 16 States Parties in taking advantage of the IA since 2016 including Angola (2018), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2020), Cambodia (2019, 2022), Chad (2022), Croatia (2016), Democratic Republic of the Congo (2020), Guinea-Bissau (2022), Mauritania (2021), Niger (2020), Serbia (2018), Sri Lanka (2018), Sudan (2018), Somalia (2018), Zimbabwe (2017 and 2018), Ecuador (2019), Tajikistan (2019).

In this regard, the Committee is currently supporting Senegal to take advantage of the Individualised Approach on the margins of the June Intersessional Meetings.

#### National Mine Action Coordination Platforms

The Committee noted that the IA, in part, offers a platform for affected States Parties to strengthen their partnerships for implementation of the Convention at a national level. However, a robust national conversation between stakeholders is essential to strengthen and foster partnerships for completion, in line with Action #44 of the Oslo Action Plan, according to which States Parties commit to "strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. They will consider, where relevant, establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders."

In this regard, the Committee presented a Sample model for a National Mine Action Platform (NMAP) to the Fourth Review Conference and continued to promote the establishment of such platforms as an important component to ensuring effective and efficient progress in the implementation of State Party commitments under the Convention.<sup>1</sup>

#### Donor Coordination

While mine affected States Parties are ultimately responsible for implementation, it is understood that the donor community can also contribute to the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. This includes by strengthening the coordination of their efforts to support States Parties with their implementation as highlighted by Action #46 of the Oslo Action Plan, which states that "States Parties in

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.osloreviewconference.org/fileadmin/APMBC-RC4/Fourth-Review-Conference/National-mine-action-platforms-en.pdf>

a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties.”

In order to promote discussions on this and other matters concerning Cooperation and Assistance leading to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties the Committee circulated a questionnaire to affected and donor States Parties to seek greater insight into the status of cooperation and assistance efforts, including on matters related to donor coordination. The Committee will assess the results of the questionnaire and engage with States Parties on this matter to develop recommendations in this regard.

### Cooperation and Assistance Fund

At the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the President established an informal Cooperation and Assistance Fund (CAF) to promote implementation of Action 47 of the Oslo Action Plan which encourages States Parties to "explore opportunities for cooperation" including "cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntarily sharing best practices and lesson learned." Representatives of mine-affected States Parties that work directly in support of the objectives, priorities, and areas of intervention of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan 2020-2024 are eligible to take advantage of the support from the Fund.

At present the Committee is considering the first pilot study/exchange visit to take place under the Cooperation and Assistance Fund in the lead up to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee looks forward to reporting back on this effort.

### **III. Information Sharing**

As part of the Committee’s mandate to look at the use of information exchange tools to foster partnerships between States Parties, the Committee has been exploring ways in which it can assist States Parties in developing their country pages on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention website to as well as the development of an online reporting tool.

#### Country web pages

The country pages on the Convention’s website enable States Parties to provide information on the development of their national programmes in collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee. The Committee remains ready to assist States Parties in this regard and encourages States Parties to share relevant information with of the Implementation Support Unit. The Convention’s website is currently finalizing its redesign and is transferring relevant document to country webpages to ensure that most accurate and up to date information provided by the relevant State Party is available.

The Committee encourages States Parties to visit their country webpages and to, through the ISU, provide any additional information it may want to highlight concerning its national programme. The Committee presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties some suggested information which States Parties may have wanted to consider in this regard.

Since the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties the ISU has been working to improve the Country web pages as they transition to a new website.

The Committee also welcomed other innovative ways of information sharing, including the Mine-Information System portal established by Croatia, which allows Internet users to have an insight into suspected hazardous areas and positions of mine danger signs as well as detailed maps provided with locations of mine danger signs and mobile application MINEfields.info which can be browsed by counties, municipalities, towns or settlements.

#### Online reporting tool

In an effort to facilitate reporting, the Committee, with support of the President of the Convention, established an online reporting tool which was launched for use by States Parties in 2022. The online tool is voluntary and meant to support State in fulfilling their obligations under Article 7 and reporting on the implementation of their Oslo Action Plan commitments.

The online tool for Article 7 reporting does not replace the option to provide reports through the current system, nor would it create additional reporting requirements. The Committee reiterates that the online tool mirrors the Guide to Reporting as updated by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties. In addition to facilitating the submission of Article 7 reports, it is expected that an online reporting tool would assist in the analysis work of the President and the Convention's Committees and therefore facilitate our collaborative work in the implementation of the Convention. Towards the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP) greater awareness raising on the use of the tool will be facilitated by the Committee, with the support of the ISU, in order to ensure that all States are knowledgeable on the use of the voluntary tool. Furthermore, In the lead up to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties the Committee will solicit feedback from current users on their experience in the use of the tool to determine any improvements that could be made.

#### Article 7 Reports

The Committee has reviewed the Article 7 Reports submitted within 2 June 2023 and welcomes the information submitted by States Parties on implementation of cooperation and assistance measures highlighted in the Oslo Action Plan. The Committee welcomed the provision of information in this regard from the following 32 States Parties: Albania, Angola, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau Japan, Lithuania, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Serbia, Slovakia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

#### **IV. Preliminary observations**

The Committee intends to continue its work to fulfil its mandate in line with the identified programme of work moving towards the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties and the Fifth Review Conference.

The Committee continues to believe that the IA is an important component of Cooperation and Assistance and, in this regard, the Committee will continue to work with States Parties to take advantage of this platform and to disseminate information on their remaining challenges and needs for support. In order to ensure the success of the , the Committee (strongly) recommends that an interested State Party should take the lead and increase its engagement with the Committee and the Implementation Support Unit in the lead up to their IA meeting.

The Committee continues to recognise that the IA is not an end in itself. In this regard, the Committee will continue to promote the establishment of National Mine Action Platforms to strengthen dialogue among relevant stakeholders, and, in the lead up to the Twenty- First Meeting of the States Parties, will give specific focus on improving the effectiveness of follow-up activities at both international and national levels. The Committee remains committed to support States Parties in this regard.

In addition, the Committee encourages States Parties to continue sharing information through their Article 7 Reports and other means, including the status of implementation, and, if relevant, its needs for cooperation and assistance, to better enable States to meet their obligations under the Convention, to the fullest extent possible, by 2025. The Committee further encourages States Parties in a position to provide assistance to continue including information on support provided in Article 7 Reports to raise awareness and provide avenues for coordination / cooperation. As part of this work, the Committee will continue to work to develop an online reporting tool to facilitate reports. The Committee will also continue to encourage States Parties to share relevant information through their country pages on the Convention's website.

While affected States Parties are required to demonstrate and strengthen national ownership by participating in the IA approach and establishing effective National Mine Action Platforms, the donor coordination are also recommended to ensure that the affected State Parties receive the support they need in order to address their challenges. With this objective, the Committee will continue exploring areas in which donor coordination can be improved.

Concerning the information submitted by the States Parties in their 2023 Article 7 Reports (Annex):

- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by 15 States Parties – Albania, Angola, Croatia, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe – on the commitment of resources to meet Convention obligations as well as alternative sources of funding being explored. Given the Committee's understanding that most States Parties contribute financial or in-kind resources for the implementation of their commitments, the Committee would encourage affected States Parties to report more on their efforts to implement Action #42 of the Oslo Action Plan.

The Committee further recognized that in implementing Article 5 , many States Parties have reported a decrease in their national resources and others have indicated that international support can contribute to the completion of their respective time bound obligations under Article 5. Likewise, the Committee welcomes reports on innovative sources of funding which could provide guidance to other affected States Parties of untapped resource.

- The Committee welcomes information from twelve States Parties – Cambodia, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye and Zimbabwe, – on their efforts to mobilize resources and disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance. The Committee encourages States to provide more information on the challenges faced and requirements for assistance in their reports. The Committee further encourages States to take advantage of the individualised approach platform. (Action #43 of the Oslo Action Plan)
- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by three States Parties – Angola, Sri Lanka, and Yemen – on efforts made to promote dialogue among all stakeholders. The Committee views this as a critical element for implementation and encourages other States to report on their efforts in this regard as well as to consider establishing platforms for partnership to enable sustained dialogue with stakeholders. (Action #44 of the Oslo Action Plan)

In this regard, the Committee also encourages States Parties to explore the establishment of mine action platforms to strengthen coordination amongst national stakeholders.

- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by Fourteen States Parties – Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, – on their efforts to provide support to mine clearance and victim assistance activities. (Action #45).
- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by six States Parties – Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, Japan and Switzerland – concerning effort to coordinate their funding. The Committee also notes that funding was also directed toward existing mechanisms such as the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund and the Mine Action Support Group (MASG).

The Committee recognizes the importance of strengthening donor coordination and ensuring that this coordination facilitates completion by States Parties to the Convention (Action #46).

- The Committee also welcomes reporting by ten States Parties – Australia, Brazil, Croatia, France, Japan, Peru, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Türkiye – on cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral. (Action #47) The Committee noted that this cooperation includes the exchange of knowledge, expertise, collaboration on borders, capacity building and exchange visits. The Committee encourages States Parties to continue its efforts to report on this matter and to continue efforts in this regard. The Committee further encourages State to consider taking advantage of the Cooperation and Assistance Fund.
- Finally, the Committee welcomes information provided by 6 States Parties – Canada, Japan, Finland, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – on its efforts to ensure that gender and diversity are integrated in the cooperation and assistance efforts. The Committee encourages States Parties to continue ensuring consideration for gender and diversity in their cooperation and assistance practices.

**Annex–** Information provided by States Parties in implementation of the Oslo Action Plan

**Action #42** *Do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible alternative and/or innovative sources of funding.*

- **Albania** reported that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) aims to provide universal health coverage for all categories of population without any discrimination.
- **Angola** reported that the government continued to financially support mine action by allocating a budget to support ANAM and CND. In addition, Angola reported that the government continued to provide financial support to The Halo Trust for the clearance of protected areas along the Okavango Delta in Cuando Cubango province.
- **Croatia** reported that in 2022 the state budget covered 68% of implementation efforts while EU funds contributed with 29.7% along with Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme which amounted to further 2.3% of annual mine action designated funds.
- **Iraq** reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including the integration of mine action activities within the National Development Plan and the Ministry of Finance in order to be integrated within the national budget.
- **Nigeria** reported on its efforts to make annual national financial contributions towards implementation, highlighting that due to the NHMAC being established after the 2023 budget was passed a limited amount of money was allocated to the NHMAC with which it convened several stakeholder meetings for the drafting of Nigeria's National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy 2023-2028 and that it is expected that further financing for the activities of the NHMAC will be captured in the 2024 budget.
- **Peru** reported that the government provides an annual contribution of S/.4,500,000 (approximately 1.2 million dollars) for the implementation of its obligations under the Convention. Peru further reported that since 2020 this Budget was cut to S/.3,500,000 due to the redirection of funds to address matters related to COVID 19.
- **Serbia** reported that in 2022, the Government of Serbia allocated around 260,000 EUR from the state budget for demining operations and that these funds were matched through ITF Enhancing Human Security with available donor funds (the US and Republic of Korea donation). Serbia further reported that, the Serbian Mine Action Centre, as a national mine action coordinating authority has requested the Serbian Government to continue to allocate resources in the years to follow. Serbia further reported that, while the Serbian Government, despite the economic and overall situation, has taken ownership of the problem by continuous allocating of funds for demining operations, international support is needed in order to solve the overall mine clearance problem.
- **South Sudan** reported that, for the first time, a private sector company, Zain Mobile company network, began to support the needs of person with disability by training the Union of Person with Disability and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities on transformative solutions, particularly on the role of innovation. This support included the training of persons with disability in areas such as computer use, mobile phone use, brail and sign language , use of assistive technology and other educational software and equipment that can support persons with disabilities in schools and at home.

- **Sri Lanka** reported that the government has set aside Rs 2 million to perform Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) initiatives in mine-affected areas. Sri Lanka further reported that, the frequency of EORE operations has been dramatically reduced as a result of the depletion of finances to the local and international EORE organizations, despite the fact that such actions are necessary in order to prevent mine-related accidents.
- **Tajikistan** reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of US \$56,400 to support humanitarian mine action and US \$480,000 in the form of in-kind assistance to facilitate the implementation of Tajikistan's obligations under the Convention
- **Thailand** reported that the Royal Thai Government continues to provide the majority of the annual mine action budget of more than USD 7,500,000. In 2022, the Royal Thai Government allocated the total sum of THB 253,205,101 (approx. USD 7,369,18.22) which includes THB 181,943,450 (USD 5,295,211) for personnel, THB 69,161,405 (USD 2,012,846.478) for operations, and THB 2,100,246 (USD 61,124.738) for additional requirements. The additional fund includes additional funding for demining operations in Rueang Phueng of THB 1,706,496.00 (approximately USD 49,665.192), and computers and office supplies for the Thailand Mine Action Centre, which amounts to THB 393,750 (approximately USD 11,459.545).

Thailand reported that, although the majority of humanitarian mine action projects in Thailand are self-funded by the Royal Thai Government, Thailand welcomes additional support, especially in terms necessary equipment, mine detectors, newer technologies, and innovation, as well as additional survey teams. This will help enhance the capacity of the mine clearance operations and expedite the ongoing progress for Thailand to become mine-free in a timely manner. Thailand also reported the partnership and support with Japan and Norway.

- **Türkiye** reported that 30.000.000 TL were allocated from the national budget by the Ministry of National Defence (MoND) for capacity development of military demining units in 2022. Türkiye further reported that the MoND approved allocating approximately **80.000.000 TL** for humanitarian mine action between 2023 and 2025, of which 5 million TL will be used for capacity development of military demining units and 75 million TL for demining activities.
- **The United Kingdom** reported that the UK's Global Mine Action Programme 2 (end March 2022) commissioned a study by Social Finance and the HALO Trust to explore the potential for innovative finance solutions to address funding shortfalls faced by countries with contamination, and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all stages of mine action. The FCDO, now operating through UK's Global Mine Action Programme 3 (start April 2022), was approached by APOPO and Cordaid (an agricultural NGO) with a concept note for an Impact Bond project, focussing on demining interventions in Cambodia, with a development intervention of organic rice farming on cleared land. The intended outcomes of the project are to ensure livelihoods in the local areas of Cambodia are bettered, as well as display how an innovative approach to funding can be used widely in the sector to integrate demining with broader development goals.

The UK further indicated that the FCDO also signed an agreement with Social Finance in November 2022 to conduct the Design work for this Impact Bond, which will be implemented in April 2023,

including recommendations on how this type of project can be scaled up both in Cambodia, and more widely across the world (such as in Ukraine to aid reconstruction efforts).

- **Yemen** reported that the contribution from the government of Yemen to the mine action sector has decreased significantly due to the economic fall across the country and due to the immense strain the conflict has placed on government services. Yemen reported that at present the government of Yemen only provides the staff for Yemen Mine Action Centre. Yemen further reported that it provides a simple limited medical treatment. Yemen further reported that the inconsistent and unpredictable donor funding to the mine action sector has made planning difficult and impacts that mine action sector's ability to efficiently expand to meet the current challenge. Yemen
- **Zimbabwe** reported that the annual support from the government in 2022 remained unchanged totalling USD 500'000. Zimbabwe reported that it continued receiving assistance from various international donors, and that it is through this cooperation and assistance that keeps Zimbabwe hopeful of meeting its obligations under the Convention by 2025. Zimbabwe further reported that more support is required and that Zimbabwe continued to lobby for increased support to finish the job.

**Action #43** States Parties seeking assistance will develop resource mobilization plans and use all mechanisms within the Convention to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance, including through their annual Article 7 transparency reports and by taking advantage of the individualized approach. States Parties will share the outcomes of the individualized approach with the wider mine action community in order to maximize its impact.

- **Cambodia** reported on challenges in implementation, including risks of a lack of financial resources and un-demarcated border areas preventing clearance of minefields along the border.
- **Chad** reported that the economic situation in Chad does not permit the necessary national finance for its humanitarian demining programme. Chad also reported that a potential lack of funding at the end of 2022 may result in cessation of activities.
- **Guinea-Bissau** reported the need for financial resources, international specialists and that the implementation of the Mine Action programme in 2023 is based on the assumption that partnerships are established, that all the preparatory activities planned in 2022 are funded and achieved, and that there is also funding for the planned activities in 2023.
- **Nigeria** reported that its challenges include technical and operational challenges, including a lack of national capacity, lack of knowledge of the precise size of contaminated areas, and that the NHMAC was established after the 2023 budget was passed and that the Committee is in need of support in cash, kind and technical expertise e.g. to set up NMAC, office space, office furniture, vehicles, demining equipment, prosthetics, and capacity building.
- **Peru** reported that one of its challenges is the budget cuts of State budget allocation for the fulfilment of its Article 5 mine clearance obligations.
- **Serbia** reported that its challenges include unregistered mine contaminated areas, newly discovered mine suspected areas, climatic conditions, contamination other than mines and the COVID-19 crisis.

- **South Sudan** reported that its challenge includes the impact of newly identified mined areas, the need for continued security and funding to support clearance towards its 2026 Article 5 mine clearance deadline.
- **Sri Lanka** reported that its challenges include a reduction of risk education as a result of the depletion of finances to the local and international EORE organisations for MRE activities.
- **Tajikistan** reported that its challenges include the impact of inaccessibility to mined areas hard to reach mountainous areas, climatic conditions and the need for additional funding and equipment to improve the capacity and methodologies of demining teams.
- **Thailand** reported that its challenges include challenging geographical landscapes, extreme terrain and weather conditions and high density minefields, impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need for necessary equipment, including mine detectors, new technologies, and addition survey teams would enhance the capacity of mine clearance operations and expedite the ongoing process for Thailand to become mine-free in a timely manner. Thailand also reported on the challenges faced in the implementation of MRE/R, including the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on traditional MRE/R activities, such as events, exhibitions and Thai Children's Day activities.

Thailand also reported that during the reporting period Thai humanitarian mine action operators were requested on several occasions by local Cambodian military garrisons to stop demining operations.

- **Türkiye** reported on challenges in implementation including political and security instability on the Syrian and Iraqi border, terrorist threats to mine clearance activities and personnel, delays in mine clearance activities by the contractors, delays in the tendering process, diverse weather conditions that may shorten demining activities to 5-6 months per year, and the negative impact of disasters such as earthquakes, fires and floods on mine clearance activities.
- **Zimbabwe** reported that it held a review of Communications and resource Mobilisation Strategy which was later launched in January 2023 alongside with the national dialogue organized with the ISU team in 2022. Zimbabwe reported that in order to meet the 2025 goal, funding support for HALO Trust, MAG, NPA and APOPO from the international community will be necessary. Zimbabwe welcomes any assistance from the international Mine Action stakeholders in resource mobilization efforts.

**Action #44** *States Parties will strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention.*

- **Angola** reported that in partnership with the non-governmental organization "The Halo Trust", ANAM organized in December a technical meeting in the city of Huambo with the participation of humanitarian mine clearance operators and the CND. The meeting aimed at sharing technical information about the challenges faced by operators in the field and to jointly address issues to improve operators' performance.

- **Sri Lanka** reported that the National Mine Action Centre conducts operation meeting and progress meeting with mine action stockholders and coordinates technical working group meeting with the operators.
- **Yemen** reported on efforts to strengthen coordination, including YEMAC and YMACC are currently working according to a prioritization system and based on sub-agreements for projects implemented by the implementing partners. These matters are addressed based on periodically meetings that are prepared in advance, such as Programme Managers meetings, Operations Managers meetings for all implementing partners, hosted by YMACC. MASAM Project participated in a number of preparatory meetings for the operations of YBLS.

**Action #45** *States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance to other States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention, in line with their development policies.*

- **Angola** Reported that regarding external funding, mine action in Angola continued to receive donations from the Governments of the United States of America, United Kingdom, Norway, Belgium, Sweden, Japan and private entities. The projects implemented by international humanitarian operators, namely The Halo Trust, MAG, APN and APOPO, as well as the national NGO APACOMINAS, benefited from these donations.
- **Australia** reported that In 2022, Australia contributed over AUD4.5 million to mine action. Australia contributed to programs in Cambodia through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and in Sri Lanka through the Mines Action Group (MAG). Australia also contributed to programs in the Philippines through the Association FSD France. Australia continues to support ongoing programs in Iraq through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), although payments were not made in the 2022 calendar year.

During the reporting period, Australia provided funding to international organisations involved in mine action including and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC) and continued to support the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining’s (GICHD).

- **Austria** reported contributing in 2022 including bilateral and multilateral contributions as well as support to mine action activities through the European Union. Austria reported having contributed a total of 3,117,000 EUR northeast Syria and Ukraine. Austria further highlighted providing training programmes on mines and UXO’s are implemented for all units conducting collective training as well as for all units during pre-deployment training for operations in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA), Kosovo (KFOR) and Mali (EUTM) and Mozambique (EUTM).

Austria further reported that, within the EU framework, Austria contributed to the financing of an Assistance Measure under the European Peace Facility aimed at enhancing and upgrading the capabilities of the Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina through the provision of adequate equipment.

- **Cambodia** reported receiving international support from a number of partners including the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCOD), US Bureau of Political- Military Affairs/Weapon Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), the German Federal Foreign Office, Swiss Agency

for Development and Cooperation, Irish Aid, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Legacy of Australia, US Humanitarian Demining Research and Development Program, Caerus Environment Project, Terra Renaissance, US DOD Humanitarian Demining Detection, US DOD Humanitarian Demining Mechanical, Freeman Foundation, Bridge Insurance, Landmine Relief Funds (Canada), SEOHEE Construction/ Good Hands and World Without Mines (Swiss).

- **Canada** reported contributing in 2022 approximately \$11,718,042 to mine action activities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Mali, Niger, Sri Lanka, Ukraine as well as other global funding. Canada reported that this included support for clearance, training and advisory services, risk education training and implementation, gender mainstreaming, community liaison, institutional support and capacity building. Canada reports that this support is provided through, the HALO Trust, MAG, UNDP, UNMAS, NPA, GICHD and ICBL.
- **Croatia** reported that, in addition to the State Budget, Croatia received support from the EU and Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme. Croatia reported that, in 2022, funds acquired for the demining operations from the EU contribution were significant.
- **The Czech Republic** reported contributing in 2022 approximately 3,143,035 CZK to support mine action activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine. The Czech Republic reported that its support is provided through the ITF, Mine Clearance Missions/Security Development Cooperation and OSCE Support Programme for Ukraine.

The Czech Republic further reported that it does not differentiate among various ERWs (mines, cluster munitions, EOD) in terms of assistance, above given information on assistance is also included in CCW P-II, APLC and CCM reporting forms provided by the Czech Republic.

- **Finland** reported that it currently supports 8 humanitarian mine action projects in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Somalia for the period of 2021-2025 totalling 15 million EUR. Finland reported that, according to Finland's humanitarian mine action concept and Fragile States agenda, Finland focuses its humanitarian mine action on least developed countries and on regions which are in a post-conflict recovery phase following an acute conflict, with severe mine action needs. Finland reported that its support is comprehensive and seeks to integrate the different pillars of humanitarian mine action - mine clearance, risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy. Finland further reported that it emphasized local capacity building with the aim of assisting host countries in developing the ability to tackle remaining contamination in the long term. Finland reported that implementing partners comprise multilateral organisations and international non-governmental organisations.
- **Germany** reported contributing in 2022 approximately 75,585,000.00 EUR to mine action activities in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Peru, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen as well as other Multilateral Programming. Germany reported that this included support for clearance, training and advisory services, risk education training and implementation, gender mainstreaming, community liaison, institutional support and capacity building. Canada reports that this support is provided through, the HALO Trust, MAG, UNDP, UNMAS, NPA, GICHD and ICBL.

- **Japan** reported that during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 it provided a total of US\$52,121,843 in support to humanitarian mine action in Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Ukraine, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Japan reported that this included support for Victim Assistance, Mine Clearance, mine risk education, capacity building, data collection, amongst others. Japan reports that this support is provided through, the APOPO, Cambodian Mine Action Centre, Delvon Assistance for Social Harmony (DASH), HALO Trust, ICRC, MAG, National demining centres, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMAS, UXO Lao , amongst others.
- **Lithuanian** reported that its Armed Forces EOD section representatives participated in the international demining exercise *Detonators 2022* in Latvia which focused on demining of ERW left from the II World War. Lithuanian also reported that its Land Forces training centre organized EOD awareness course for Ukrainian representatives.
- **New Zealand** reported on a number of multiannual contributions to mine action activities in Afghanistan, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Palestine, Myanmar, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Syria, Yemen as well as other Multilateral Programming. New Zealand reported that this included support for clearance, training and advisory services, risk education training and implementation and capacity building. New Zealand reports that this support is provided through, UNMAS, ARMAC, UNDP, UXO Lao, HALO Trust, ICRC, UNHCR, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, UNFPA, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund, Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund, WFP, FAO, UNICEF and UNOCHA.
- **Norway** reported contributing in 2022 approximately 429,223,313 NOK (\$US44,710,762) to mine action activities in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Europe, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Lebanon, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Yemen, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Vietnam, West – Africa, Palestine, Myanmar and Libya as well as other Multilateral Programming. Norway reported that this support is provided through, Humanity and Inclusion, the HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group, GICHD, ICBL, ICRC, Norwegian Red Cross, COPE and NPA.
- **Slovakia** reported providing a financial contribution of 25.000 EUR to Projects Iraq with this support provided through the UN Mine Action Services.
- **Sweden** reported contributing in 2022 at least SEK 126, 035, 000 to mine action through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to support mine action activities in Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Myanmar, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe as well as other Global Programming. Sweden reported that this support is provided through, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, Un Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Post Conflict Colombia, UNMAS, DRC, MAG, NPA, Geneva Call, GICHD, ICRC, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and UNICEF.

Sweden also reported that the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) has supported Mine Action activities through UNMAS, OSCE and UNDP and that it has seconded a regional security specialist covering the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Colombia with the objective to improve the operational capacity of UNMAS field programmes. Sweden also reported that the specialist develops and implements routines in order to ensure that all necessary security

measures for operations in high-risk areas are in place for UNMAS to react and respond to humanitarian emergencies and support DPO missions within UNMAS' mandate in a timely manner. Sweden further reported that, in Afghanistan MSB has supported the UNMAS field programme with an information management officer and a senior operations officer and that in support of the UNDP mine action programme in Yemen, MSB has supported with an Information Management Specialist and a Mine Action Technical Advisor.

- **Switzerland** reported contributing in 2022 approximately 18.8 million CHF to support mine action activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Montenegro, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Switzerland reported that it support on a multi-annual manner depending on the context and possibilities.
- **The United Kingdom** reported contributing in 2022 approximately £20,660,000.32 to mine action activities in Nigeria, East African Region, Chad, Cameroon, Libya, Abkhazia (Georgia), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Ukraine, Somalia, Yemen, Angola, Cambodia, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Laos, South Sudan, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Sudan. The United Kingdom reported that this included support for training, clearance, training and advisory services, risk education training and implementation, survey and capacity building, amongst other. The United Kingdom reported that this support is provided through, DanChurch Aid, HALO Trust, UNICEF, UNDP, Yemen Support Fund, Mines Advisory Group, UN Voluntary Trust Fund,

The UK reported that it supports other states to meet their Convention obligations. The UK's "mine action" programmes collectively cover the clearance of cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive remnants of war, alongside risk education and other activities. It is not possible to separate out funds spent relating to anti-personnel mines alone. These projects take place through funds from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office under its Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP), and the UK Government's Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF).

The United Kingdom further reported that it champions the rights of victims of landmines and cluster munitions, as well as other people with disabilities, through our global leadership and programming on disability inclusion. Our inclusive approach removes the risk of discriminating based on the cause of a person's disability. The UK has been working to implement its 2018 Disability Inclusion Strategy. Significant progress against the strategy has been achieved, evidenced in the recently published FCDO Progress Paper on Disability Inclusion. The UK is also investing to promote disability inclusion, for example ATscale, a global partnership for assistive technology, was launched at the 2018 Global Disability Summit with UK funding. Its ambition is that by 2030 over 500 million people will have access to life-changing assistive technology, such as wheelchairs and prosthetics. This will be achieved by tackling market access barriers and creating an enabling ecosystem for access to assistive technology.

- **Zimbabwe** reported that it received assistance through operators accredited in Zimbabwe from the USA (US Dos and WRA), Switzerland, Japan, Ireland, the UK, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Australia and also organizations such as OAK Foundation and World Without Mines.

**Action #46** *States Parties in a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties.*

- **Australia** reported that it participants in meetings of the Mine Action Support Group, which seeks to coordinate international responses to ERW contamination.
- **Canada** reported that it actively participates in the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), to ensure the coordination of support for the effective implementation of the Convention.
- **Germany** reported that it carries out working level exchanges and that coordination could be strengthened by providing more overview material on specific donor profiles.
- **Finland** reported coordinating their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties through active participation in relevant donor coordination forums such as the Mine Action Support Group, EU level coordination and the Ottawa convention.

Finland noted that sharing information on support in various countries and focus areas to avoid possible overlap, and forming a comprehensive understanding of needs and support, especially in new and emerging conflicts and areas.

Finland highlighted the importance of increasing informal coordination efforts and networks, linking donors, humanitarian mine action implementors and aid recipients.

- **Japan** reported that some of Japan's projects are conducted through international organizations including the UN and that in the implementation of these projects, each donor, including Japan, will keep in mind to provide effective support under the coordination of the relevant international organization in such a way that there is no duplication in terms of areas and regions of support.

Japan reported that the areas of support that each donor focuses on may overlap, and it may be difficult to provide support efficiently as a whole. In addition, it may be difficult at times to coordinate directly with other donors as we may not know our counterparts. There could be an e-mail link for the economic cooperation officers in different donor countries which could contribute to strengthen a system of direct communication among them to facilitate dialogue and better coordination for planning and implementing projects.

- **Switzerland** reported that it often direct contact with other donors in specific contexts including through relevant embassies and cooperation offices, ideally in coordination with the national mine action centres. Switzerland's indicted that there is often limited resource available for coordination efforts to be held in a regular manner.

Switzerland highlighted the importance of providing examples and the benefits of good donor coordination in order to show the positive cost-benefit ration of putting time and resources into coordination, both for donors and affected States Parties.

**Action #47** *Continuously explore opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Cooperation of this kind may include making mutually supporting clearance commitments in border areas, sharing experience of integrating gender and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account into programming, and, in line with Article 6, exchanging equipment, material and scientific and technological information (or donating them after one State Party reaches completion) in order to promote the implementation of the Convention.*

- **Australia** reported that it participates in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA), which promotes practical cooperation and builds regional humanitarian mine action capacity. Australia reported that it has participated in all EWG meetings so far in the 2021-2024 cycle. Australia reported that in 2022, the Australian Department of Defence provided international students with various training and assistance relevant to this Convention.
- **Brazil** reported that in the area of cooperation and assistance, the Brazilian Army maintained 10 military personnel in support of the AICMA - CO (Integral Action Against Antipersonnel Mines - Colombia) program during 2022. The Inter-American Monitor Group (GMI) was composed of 3 military personnel, the Inter-American Technical Advisory Group (GATI) was composed of 1 military personnel and the Mission of Instructors and Advisers on Humanitarian Demining (MIADH) was composed of 6 military personnel.

Brazil further reported that Instructions on Mine Risk Education (MRE) were given at the Engineering Instruction Center, in Araguari, and at the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center, CCOPAB, to a total of approximately 40 (forty) military personnel, including officers from Bolivia, Colombia Guatemala, Paraguay and Sao Tome e Principe.

- **Croatia** reported that a specific EORE education was created and conducted for the children from Ukraine which were staying in Croatia during 2022 as a part of broader, war relief, NGO and National partnership efforts.

Croatia reported that the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contribution and a specific project named "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" which has been carried out in the 2017-2023 period included the establishment of a comprehensive EO database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages.

- **France** reported that the training centre for post-conflict demining and depollution actions (CPADD) is a national school with a regional vocation born of the partnership between France and Benin in 2002. France reported that in 2022, the French Directorate for Security and Defense Cooperation (DCSD) subsidized the training of 134 African trainees.
- **Japan** reported having conducted capacity development for mine action to the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in Cambodia, not only to CMAC individual staff but also to CMAC as an institution

since 1998. Based on such experiences, Japan has supported the sharing of Cambodia's experience in demining with third countries such as Colombia, Laos, Iraq, Angola and Ukraine since 2010.

Japan has reported having begun cooperation on mine action for Ukraine together with Cambodia, drawing on its experience and expertise in mine action and reconstruction. Specifically, in January, 2023, JICA and CMAC, which has experience in operating Japan's Advanced Landmine Imaging System (ALIS), conducted training on the use of ALIS for State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Cambodia, and also conducted training in Japan on mine countermeasures.

- **Peru** reported that Perú and Ecuador have been making joint efforts in terms of combined humanitarian demining, training, exchange of information, knowledge and experience acquired in the course of fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, constituting an example of good practices and South-South Cooperation.
- **Spain** reported that in March 2002, the International Demining Center (CID), financed by the Ministry of Defense was formally created, although international cooperation activities in this field date back to 1999. Located in the vicinity of Madrid, the CID was born with the aim of becoming an international benchmark in humanitarian demining.

Spain reported that the Center offers various teaching and research capacities, within the standards of the United Nations Organization (UN), as well as technical advice regarding demining and explosives deactivation (EOD). At the CID, continuous training and specialization courses are given to deminers from other countries, and theoretical and practical classes for the different national organizations that provide personnel to Peace Operations, before moving to areas presumably mined or contaminated with explosive remnants of war.

- **Sri Lanka** reported that the Government of Sri Lanka is able to share expertise and/or experiences as concerns mine clearance and victim assistance with other governments. Since 2002, NMAC initiated inter-institutional cooperation with other programmes, states (Cambodia, Vietnam, Iran, and Tajikistan) and military bodies, and also international partnership with the GICHD and UN agencies attending relevant international meetings of the convention. Sri Lanka will seek possibilities in necessary cooperation and assistance.
- **Thailand** reported that it regularly engaging in a dialogue with Cambodia to follow up on cooperation in addressing areas on their common border, in particular the "Pilot Project on Demining Cooperation along the Border of Thailand and Cambodia", which was carried out between March–April 2020. Thailand reported that during 7 – 9 September 2022, TMAC and CMAC conducted the survey to identify potential areas to be including in the new joint demining cooperation project. Thailand further indicated that once TMAC and CMAC has preliminarily agreed on the selected areas to address, the plan will be submitted to the Thailand-Cambodia General Border Committee (GBC) for endorsement.

Thailand reported that on 10 November 2022, the Prime Ministers of Thailand and Cambodia engaged in a bilateral dialogue during the ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, in which the two Prime Ministers acknowledged the importance of demining operations to the protection of people's safety, that the demining operations will not affect the ongoing joint survey and demarcation within the framework of JBC and their legal positions. In this connection, they agreed to task relevant authorities of both

countries work closely together to clear all landmines in the remaining areas along the Thailand – Cambodia border.

- **Türkiye** reported that it sent 8 military demining teams and 4 EOD teams to Azerbaijan in December 2020 to support the mine clearance activities carried out by Azerbaijan and that since the beginning of the 2022, 4 military demining teams have been conducting mine clearance in Azerbaijan. Türkiye further reported that Humanitarian Mine Clearance Training, Mine/IED Awareness Training, Mine Detector Training, Mechanical Demining Machines Training, Basic Demolition Techniques Training and Minefield Breaching Training were provided to Azerbaijan Armed Forces personnel. Additionally, a Goodwill Protocol was signed with Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) in 18 November 2022. (in line with the OAP Action 7 and 47)

### **Action 3 Gender and Diversity**

- **Canada** reported that in line with Canada’s feminist foreign policy, a gender lens is applied to all security-related programming (including project indicators and outcomes).

Canada includes mine action related activities within its peacebuilding, development and human rights plans, where relevant.

- **Finland** reported that promoting gender equality and human rights, strengthening the influence and participation of women and girls as well as advancing non-discrimination are of special importance to Finland within the HMA agenda. Gender equality can be promoted by, among other things, striving to provide women with equal access to employment opportunities within HMA operations. Attention is also paid to Finland’s cross-cutting development co-operation objectives, as well as to results-based management and human rights based approach in mine action. Finland actively engages in dialogue and shares expertise with implementing partners, other donors and civil society, and tries to promote these issues in all of our disarmament agenda.
- **Germany** reported that they require from their partners disaggregated beneficiary data on Gender, Age and Disability and encourage them to follow gender-sensitive approaches.
- **Japan** reported that when implementing projects, the specific contributions that can be made in terms of support for women are formulated in a planning phase with the project partners, and actual activities are carried out accordingly.
- **Switzerland** reported that Gender is a mandatory consideration when establishing a new project and information on gender is specifically asked from the implementation partners. Switzerland also support the GICHD, including GMAT of civil society organisations working in these important areas.
- **The United Kingdom** reported that it is a leader in developing policies to address gender related issues and is committed to politically empower women and girls as change agents and leaders, as articulated in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office’s (FCDO’s) Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, the UK’s National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the World Humanitarian Summit Commitments.

The United Kingdom reported that it recognises the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) is different for men, women, boys and girls and that the UK's legislative commitments under the Gender Equality Act, FCDO continues to promote and mainstream gender equality through GMAP2 and ensure our mine action programming is attuned to the different needs of men, women, boys and girls in the following ways:

- Operator employment practices: mine action organisations that FCDO funds should ensure the staff they engage are reflective of, and responsive to, the gender demographics in local communities.
- FCDO expects their chosen suppliers to demonstrate a commitment to gender and social inclusion in employment practices in each country of operation.
- FCDO promotes and encourages the employment of as many female deminers as possible. In 2020 FCDO's funding supported partners in Sri Lanka to offer leadership training which trains women to become leaders in the minefield and in their communities.

They are also targeting women for medical skills training.

- Our partners in Somaliland have supported and encouraged women from minority clans to complete mine clearance training and they now have women from the Gabooye clan, who are a particularly marginalised clan working on the Inaa Guuxa and Duruqsi minefields.
- In South Sudan there are a number of women working in demining teams and our partners delivered a leadership training course to support women to apply for leadership positions within the country programme. Data collection, disaggregation and analysis: all FCDO's programme indicators are disaggregated by gender as far as possible and where appropriate.

FCDO request this information from their implementing partners on a quarterly basis in order to monitor impact effectively.