

Mr. President,

Clearing the world of Anti-Personnel Landmines remains one of the Convention's main goals. As such, conducting survey and clearance is still the most effective way to save lives. Risk Education is an important preventive measure to save lives before clearance can be completed and should be integrated and standardized in all mine action activities.

The latest report by Mine Action Review provides some welcoming news. It shows that global clearance increased last year. It is particularly encouraging to note that Cambodia massively increased its clearance output in 2023.

We do note with concern that several affected States Parties saw a drop in clearance output in 2023. In some cases, lack of progress boils down to limited resources, and difficulties accessing and carrying out surveys in certain regions. As donors we should assess how global funding is distributed to ensure that **all** affected states can benefit from international assistance. The active participation of operators, civil society and mine action authorities is crucial in this regard.

Norway will continue to call for the improvement of donor coordination and we encourage the creation of Country Coalitions or Mine Ban Platforms which engage all relevant stakeholders at national level to keep clearance on the agenda in the affected states.

Mr President,

Norway supports the creation of a trust fund to support affected states who are struggling to mobilize resources. Many have low or medium contamination. A dedicated funding mechanism to support survey and clearance in these states would contribute positively to article 5 implementation and possibly bring more States over the finishing line. It could also contribute to bringing more countries onboard as donors for global mine action. We are ready to engage actively in discussions to explore the feasibility of such a fund, as envisaged in the Draft Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan.

Mr. President,

Clearance is one of the areas in mine action that can have a considerable environmental impact, and environment and climate considerations should be included in all processes of land release.

Norway provides financial support to clearance operators to develop environment and climate tools. We encourage more donors to do so. We support the efforts of your Presidency to embed strong climate and environment considerations in the Political Declaration and throughout the Siem Reap Action plan.

Thank you.