



## **Statement by the Sri Lanka**

### **Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Item 8 (e) Other matters essential for achieving the aims of the Convention**

**28 November 2024**

#### **Cooperation & Assistance**

Mr. President,

In the 'Siem Reap-Angkor Declaration on a Mine-Free World 2024' which was adopted at this Conference, we recognized the critical role of national ownership and international cooperation and assistance for the success of the Convention. Accordingly, we committed to strengthen national ownership and work together to forge partnerships between mine affected States Parties, States Parties in a position to provide assistance and international organizations and civil society. It was also agreed that it is necessary to explore new mechanisms for fostering cooperation and assistance and jointly ensure that no State is left behind.

I would like to stress the absolute necessity of focusing attention on these aspects of the Declaration, in realizing the vision of a mine-free world.

On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I would also like to express gratitude to the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) for the unwavering support and guidance provided to Sri Lanka in carrying out our commitments under the Convention. In particular, we extend our sincere appreciation to Algeria and Japan; the outgoing members of the Committee, and the former Committee for their contributions, as well as Türkiye and Denmark for their exemplary leadership and coordination in the current committee.

The National Mine Action Programme of Sri Lanka has reached a significant milestone, completing 14 years of dedicated work towards a mine-free future. This journey has been made possible through the generous contributions of donor countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Japan, Germany, Norway, Canada, the European Union, and Australia, who collectively contributed approximately USD 250 million since 2010.

We also acknowledge the vital role played by international clearance organizations such as MAG, HALO Trust, SHARP, and the Delvon Assistance for Social Harmony (DASH). These organizations have received approximately USD 17 million in funding from donor countries for their activities in 2024 alone. Additionally, the Government of Sri Lanka has consistently supported the programme, allocating around 50 million Sri Lankan Rupees annually to ensure its continuity.

The Government of Sri Lanka has approved the Completion Strategy 2023-2027, reaffirming our commitment to achieving a mine-free nation. To this end, we emphasize the need for ongoing cooperation, knowledge-sharing programmes, and capacity-building initiatives. Sri Lanka is eager to share its 14 years of experience in mine action with interested parties to contribute to the global vision of a mine-free world.

We would also like to flag the importance of continued funding that is essential for Sri Lanka until 2027 to complete the goals that we set and urge consideration of additional support to develop a robust Victim Assistance Programme to address the long-term needs of mine survivors.

Together, through sustained collaboration and shared expertise, we can advance towards a safer and mine-free world.

Thank you.