
Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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Review of the operation and status of the Convention

Draft review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 2019-2024

Mine Risk Education and Reduction, Assisting the Victims, International Cooperation and Assistance

Submitted by the President of the Fifth Review Conference*, **

I. Mine risk education and reduction

1. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties recognised that mine risk education and reduction could help prevent new mine accidents and save lives and that in addition to clearance, providing risk education and other risk reduction programs to affected populations is a primary means of preventing injuries and fatal accidents. The States Parties also noted that, in recent years, large new groups of refugees and internally displaced persons have come to count among the many groups at risk from anti-personnel mines, and the number of casualties has been on the rise. The States Parties further noted that the delivery of effective, relevant risk education and other risk reduction programs that are sensitive to gender, age, and disability and that take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account require ongoing focus to prevent new mine accidents.

2. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) committed States Parties to integrate mine risk education and reduction activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection, and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance, and victim assistance activities to reduce the risk to the affected population and decrease their need for risk-taking. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 23 States Parties (70%) have reported integrating mine risk education and reduction activities into other frameworks including the following: Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Iraq, Mauritania, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, since the Fourth Review Conference, efforts to integrate mine risk education into broader humanitarian, development, protection, health, and religious education efforts have increased and should be further encouraged. This is particularly relevant in transition and protracted

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crisis contexts where more holistic approaches and integration with other sectors provide alternative solutions that could reduce the risk of communities being forced to conduct unsafe practices due to socio-economic reasons.

3. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) committed States Parties to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk and ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 19 States Parties (58%) reported having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place, including: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Likewise, 18 States Parties (55%) reported carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse, and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs, including: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Türkiye, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Improving implementation and reporting on mine risk education and reduction activities will be important in the future.

4. Furthermore, the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) committed States Parties to prioritize people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern, and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 18 States Parties reported having an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes, including: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Thailand, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

5. Since the Fourth Review Conference, despite an increase in efforts to ensure the provision of context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes based on needs assessments, analyses of populations' behaviour, risk pattern, and coping mechanisms related to mine contamination, reporting on these efforts and how this information informs national mine risk education and reduction efforts could be improved. Improvements in reporting in this regard could support States Parties in sharing best practices on the methodologies used in designing mine risk education and reduction programmes. Furthermore, strengthening efforts in this regard going forward would be important.

6. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) committed States Parties to build a national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including delivering such programmes to affected communities if previously unknown mined areas are discovered. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 21 States Parties have reported providing risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered including: Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

7. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) committed States Parties to report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies, challenges, and results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 29 States reported on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results, including: Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

8. The importance of mine risk education in saving lives, particularly in settings where access to survey and clearance activities is not currently available, has been further noted as illustrated in the UN General Assembly Resolution on assistance in mine action adopted on 7 December 2023 (A7RES/78/70).

9. Since the Fourth Review Conference, several innovative approaches have been developed to enhance the delivery of mine risk education and reduction efforts. This includes the review of the International Mine Action Standard on explosive ordnance risk education (IMAS 12.10) and the Technical Note for Mine Action on risk education for improvised explosive devices (TNMA 12.10/01). Other examples include the development of digital Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) projects, the increased use of social and behaviour change methodologies, and the launch of an Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) e-learning course. In this regard, the States Parties have pointed to the importance of ensuring that NMAS are in line with best practices highlighted in IMAS and are applied routinely by stakeholders.

II. Assisting the victims

10. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties reemphasized their commitment to ensuring the full, equal, and effective participation of mine victims in society based on respect for human rights, gender equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination. The States Parties have reiterated their recognition that, to be effective and sustainable, victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans, and legal frameworks relating to the rights of persons with disabilities and to health, education, employment, development, and poverty reduction in support of the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

11. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the number of States Parties having reported carrying out victim assistance activities includes the following 38 States Parties: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

12. Unfortunately, since the Fourth Review Conference, the number of new victims from explosive ordnance globally has increased due primarily to the new use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature in states in conflict situations. From 2020 to 2023, the Landmine Monitor has reported a total of 23,084 casualties in States Parties, with 8,318 having been killed and 14,594 having been injured and survival status reported unknown for 172. In this regard, efforts must continue to ensure that casualties are provided with lifesaving and continued medical care as well as long-term support for inclusion into their communities' political and social life.

13. Since the Fourth Review Conference, most of these States Parties have reported progress in implementing all or some of the victim assistance actions of the OAP. The Committee on Victim Assistance has noted the importance of States Parties continuing to provide detailed information on progress and challenges in implementation. States Parties have reported that some of the greatest challenges affecting their progress in implementing victim assistance efforts include the lack of regular inter-agency coordination and planning, lack of reliable data, shortages of services and technical expertise in remote areas, shortages of financial and technical resources and in some cases lack of an overall awareness of the broader rights of mine survivors, amongst others.

14. The SDGs have been seen as highly complementary to a rights-based approach to victim assistance under the Convention, offering opportunities for continued efforts to strengthen collaboration between the Convention and other relevant frameworks that support mine victims and persons with disabilities. The States Parties have recognised the continued importance of increasing and consolidating synergies between the Convention and other instruments associated with health, development, disability, the rule of law, and human rights.

15. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee on Victim Assistance has continued its efforts to reach out to and strengthen synergies with broader frameworks by participating in meetings of the Human Rights Council, the World Health Assembly, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee continued to promote the link between victim assistance and broader frameworks by supporting recommendations put forward by the World Health Organisation and other international organisations on matters such as assistive technology, rehabilitation, safety and protection, and emergency trauma care, as well as, for example, recommending and supporting the development of a general comment on Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

16. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties committed to ensuring that a relevant government entity is assigned to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans, and legal frameworks, develop an action plan, and monitor and report on implementation based on specific, measurable, realistic, and time-bound objectives to support mine victims. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 30 States Parties have designated such a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities, including: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Likewise, 25 States Parties have reported having national action plans in place, including: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Ensuring a relevant focal point and the development of an action plan is critical for the sustainability of victim assistance and essential to ensure that broader frameworks respond to the needs of mine victims.

17. Victim assistance continues to be a multi-sectoral effort, and synergies with the provisions of the CRPD continue to provide opportunities for progressing towards the Convention's victim assistance objectives. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 27 States Parties have reported including mine victims in relevant national policy and support framework, including: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. The Committee welcomed the development of IMAS 13.10, a tool to assist the States Parties in strengthening shared responsibility and enhancing national ownership in victim assistance implementation.

18. At the Fourth Review Conference States Parties acknowledged the importance of information sharing to ensure a comprehensive response to address the needs of mine victims. A centralized database with information on persons killed by mines as well as persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age, and disability, was seen as critical in this regard. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 21 States Parties have indicated the inclusion of victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems, including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, and Zimbabwe. Additionally, the States Parties have recognised the importance of States Parties disaggregating victim data by gender, age, and disability. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 26 States Parties have presented data in this regard in their report: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Nevertheless, efforts must continue to ensure that data collection is comprehensive and includes sufficient detail to identify specific needs and challenges faced by mine survivors and persons with disabilities. It can also serve as a guide to provide a comprehensive response and/or services. Furthermore, centralized databases (such as those on disabilities and injury surveillance) should aim to include information on persons killed or injured by mines and

other explosive ordnance, and their needs and challenges disaggregated by gender, age, and disability, as well as on indirect victims (affected families and affected communities).

19. During the 22-24 June 2021 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on Victim Assistance organised a panel discussion on “establishing and strengthening a centralized database.” The panel discussion was moderated by Thailand and included participation from Iraq, the ICBL, the ICRC, and the Asia Foundation - Afghanistan. The panel's objective was to support States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities by drawing attention to data collection challenges and establishing/strengthening a national centralized database in support of the fulfilment of Action 35 of the OAP. The panel also aimed to enhance understanding of the significance and importance of data collection and a sustainable national unified database for victim assistance and provide information to States on good practices and available assistance. The panel stressed the importance of States Parties ensuring that data on mine victims are integrated into centralized national databases to ensure improved coordination to address the needs and challenges of mine victims and other persons with disabilities.

20. The fatality rate of mine survivors has been raised as an important issue to address through effective and efficient first aid to new casualties in mine-affected communities, as well as the provision of other pre-hospital care and ongoing medical care. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 26 States Parties have reported on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents, including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Croatia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. While many States Parties have reported on efforts in this regard, it is clear that more needs to be done to strengthen the survivability rate of mine casualties.

21. To provide a comprehensive response to mine victims and facilitate access to services, the States Parties recognised the importance of sharing information on appropriate services through referral mechanisms, including creating and disseminating a comprehensive directory of services. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 22 States Parties have reported having a national referral mechanism in place, including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, 15 States Parties have reported having a directory of services in place, including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, and Zimbabwe. Increased reporting in this regard would be welcome to share best practices and lessons learned on developing and disseminating such information.

22. Providing access to comprehensive rehabilitation services, including in rural and remote areas, is an important challenge in implementing victim assistance commitments. This effort includes assistive technology and psychological and psychosocial support, which have increasingly been considered essential to victim assistance. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 29 States Parties have reported on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services, with some having constructed new physical rehabilitation centres, including: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. To strengthen sustainability in the provision and delivery of rehabilitation and assistance technology, States Parties have been encouraged to integrate them into national health systems. 22 States Parties have reported efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services including: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe. Of these States Parties, 9 have reported efforts on the use of peer supports in an irregular manner, including: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Jordan, South Sudan, Tajikistan, and Thailand. More efforts should be invested into making use of peer-to-peer support as an effective and complementary effort to

address the mental health and psychological needs of mine victims, including rural and remote areas.

23. Nevertheless, despite progress reported, many States Parties with mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control, and many service providers lack the capacity (e.g., resources, technical knowledge) to continuously make tangible progress to enable inclusive and accessible services for mine victims and other persons with disabilities. In this regard, States Parties must increase efforts to ensure that services are available, accessible, and affordable to all mine victims on an equal basis with other members of their society. As part of these efforts, States Parties should consider strengthening or creating community-based services (such as community outreach programs, case management, peer-to-peer support networks) that can ensure that mine victims and other persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas have full access to services they need.

24. During the 20-22 June 2022 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on Victim Assistance organised a panel discussion on “Fostering Cooperation for Rehabilitation”. The panel was moderated by Algeria and Japan in their capacity as Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance and Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, respectively, and included representatives from Amputee Self Help Network, the WHO, the Ministry of Public Health of Guinea-Bissau, the ICRC, John Hopkins International Injury Research Unit and Humanity and Inclusion. The panel discussion called attention to the persistent challenges in delivering rehabilitation services and explored opportunities for support to ensure improved, sustainable, affordable, equitable, and accessible rehabilitation.

25. The role of programs such as Mental Health and Psychological Support (MHPSS) to address the needs of mine victims has been highlighted since the Fourth Review Conference. During the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on Victim Assistance organised a panel discussion on “Victim Assistance and the OAP: Are we on track in providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)?”. The panel was moderated by Slovenia in its capacity as a member of the Committee on Victim Assistance and included representatives from the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre, the Ministry of Health of Uganda, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines and the International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security. The discussion examined the lessons learned over the past years concerning the importance of MHPSS and reemphasized the importance of delivering this critical element of victim assistance. The panel also highlighted the importance of integrating MHPSS into victim assistance efforts and working with local organisations to provide MHPSS.

26. The social and economic inclusion of mine victims, including in rural and remote areas, continues to be a challenge in many States Parties and requires a multi-sectoral approach to ensure its success. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 26 States Parties have reported efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims including: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Social and economic inclusion of mine victims, which encompass access to education, capacity-building, employment, referral services, microfinance institutions, business development services, reasonable accommodation, rural development, and social protection programs, including in rural and remote areas, is one of the most complex pillars of victim assistance, which requires long-term engagements by different sectors, such as national ministries or agencies responsible for the development, education, poverty reduction, labour, and social protection, among others.

27. Including mine survivors and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them, including in rural and remote areas, has also been a significant effort to ensure that “no one is left behind.” In this regard, since the Fourth Review Conference, 26 States Parties have reported on efforts to include victim representatives or their organisations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level including: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Thailand, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Ensuring and increasing the inclusion of mine survivors and their representative organisations in the

planning and implementation of victim assistance will be critical to ensure its effective and efficient implementation. Representative organisations of mine survivors increasingly integrated into persons with disabilities' organisations, through which they took part in broader disability efforts, including implementing the CRPD. Given the significance of participation and inclusion, more efforts would be needed to ensure systemic inclusion and participation, including implementing the Convention.

28. Considering protracted and new conflicts around the globe, the States Parties have recognised the importance of ensuring that relevant national humanitarian responses and preparedness plans provide for the safety and protection of mine survivors in situation of risks, including armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, in line with relevant instruments of international humanitarian and human rights law and international guidelines. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 19 States Parties have reported integrating the protection of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. To assist the States Parties' efforts in this regard, in 2020, the Committee on Victim Assistance commissioned a case study on "Ensuring the Safety and Protection of Mine Survivors in Situation of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies," compiling good practices in Afghanistan, Colombia, and Uganda. In this regard, the States Parties welcome the efforts of the Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to develop a General Comment on the implementation of Article 11 of the CRPD concerning the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters. These efforts will guide the States Parties implementing victim assistance efforts, most of which are parties to the CRPD.

29. During the 30 June – 2 July 2020 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on Victim Assistance organised a panel discussion on "Safety and Protection of Mine Survivors in Situations of Risks and Humanitarian Emergencies." The panel discussion was chaired by Italy as Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance and included participation from Colombia, Iraq, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, the ICRC, and Humanity and Inclusion. The objective of the panel was to increase understanding of the significance of the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk and emergencies and to offer expert recommendations on how they can be achieved over the next five years. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the panel drew attention to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on mine survivors and the importance of drawing lessons learned and good practices to reduce risks and consequences on the lives and livelihoods of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities. During the panel, experts highlighted the importance of synergies with other international frameworks for the safety and protection of persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, in situations of risk and humanitarian emergency and explored best practices in mitigation, preparedness, and response. In particular, the complementarity and intersections between victim assistance and disability rights were highlighted, as well as the advantages of applying an integrated approach to achieve the objectives of Action 40 of the OAP.

30. In 2022, the Committee on Victim Assistance hosted a side event on the margins of the Global Disability Summit to raise awareness on "the importance of inclusion of victim assistance in broader frameworks including situations of risks, crises, and humanitarian emergencies." The virtual event provided an opportunity for the disability rights community and other participants of the Global Disability Summit to learn more about the work of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on victim assistance, to exchange information and stimulate further thoughts on the inclusion of persons with disabilities, including explosive ordnance survivors in situations of risks, crises including COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian emergencies. This event helped to build awareness within the disability community of the plight of landmine survivors.

31. The SDGs have been viewed as highly complementary to a human rights-based approach to victim assistance under the Convention, offering opportunities for continued efforts to strengthen collaboration between the Convention and other relevant frameworks that support mine victims and persons with disabilities. The States Parties have recognised

the continued importance of increasing and consolidating synergies between the Convention and other instruments associated with health, development, disability, the rule of law, and human rights.

32. Since the Fourth Review Conference, several national stakeholder dialogues have been held to strengthen the national response to victim assistance and raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, acquired through wider rights recognition for protected groups, e.g., disability status. For example, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, and Sudan held national stakeholder meetings to examine the status of victim assistance efforts and remaining challenges and propose a way forward for implementation. The inclusive and participatory nature of these national stakeholder dialogues allowed for an important exchange of information between partners to determine the best way to proceed with implementation. Some of the outcomes have included the increased understanding and awareness of the rights-based approach to assistance to and matters related to persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, the importance of gender and age-based approaches, the relevance of timely data provided in a disaggregated fashion and the need for affordable and accessible support. States Parties and participating organisations have expressed the value of holding such national dialogues.

33. Additionally, since the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee on Victim Assistance has provided a platform for exchanging lessons learned and best practices in meeting the needs and realising the rights of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities through the hosting of periodic victim assistance experts meetings:

(a) On 11 November 2020, the Committee on Victim Assistance held a Victim Assistance Experts Meeting focused on the safety and protection of mine victims in situations of risk and emergencies. The virtual expert meeting provided an opportunity to raise awareness and enhance understanding of Action #40 of the OAP;

(b) On 10 November 2021, the Committee on Victim Assistance held a virtual Victim Assistance Experts Meeting focused on enhancing understanding of multi-sectoral efforts and the importance of integrating victim assistance into broader national frameworks;

(c) On 23-24 November 2022, the Committee on Victim Assistance held a Victim Assistance Experts Meeting focused on rehabilitation, a major objective in victim assistance, and a significant commitment under Action #38 of the Convention's OAP.

34. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee has held an annual victim assistance retreat, inviting stakeholders in Geneva representing different sectors, including the different victim assistance coordinators of disarmament Conventions, the Convention on Cluster Munition and the Secretariat of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the ICRC, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Humanity and Inclusion, and the United Nations Mine Action Service. This platform provided by the Committee offers an opportunity for different actors to learn about their respective thematic priorities, activities, objectives, and mandates, evaluate concrete opportunities for cooperation, and ultimately build and strengthen a concerted victim assistance approach to support the promotion of their shared objectives.

III. International cooperation and assistance

35. Cooperation and Assistance is a key element of the Convention enshrined in Article 6. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties reaffirmed that while each State Party is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, the States Parties stress that enhanced cooperation can support implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible.

36. Since the Fourth Review Conference, several States Parties have reported the lack of funding as one of the main obstacles to implementation of their commitments under the Convention. The Covid-19 pandemic which began in early 2020 shortly after the Fourth Review Conference, led to reported delays in operation and reduction in the availability of national and international funding. Likewise, a general downturn in the global economy has reduced availability of national and international resources. Nonetheless, the Covid- 19

pandemic demonstrated the resilience of States Parties' implementation efforts which continued throughout despite restrictions in place. Furthermore, the unprecedented situation in Ukraine has dominated the global context since 2022, leading to a redirection of some of the financial support and engagement traditionally provided to other mine-affected States Parties. Some States Parties with limited contamination have called upon States in a position to provide assistance to support their efforts in reaching completion.

37. The States Parties have recognised the importance of States Parties committing the resources needed to meet their obligations as soon as possible. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 28 States Parties (85%) implementing obligations under Article 5 and/or victim assistance commitments have reported making national financial commitments to the implementation of the Convention including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Serbia, Senegal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. The amount of the national contribution differs greatly between these States both in the level of assistance as well as in the areas to which national contributions are allotted (e.g. operations, staffing/equipment of the national mine action centre, victim assistance etc.).

38. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the Landmine Monitor has recorded from 2020-2025 funding to mine action from mine affected countries to their mine action programme at approximately [INSERT TOTAL AMOUNT] (78.3 million (2020), 55.4 million (2021), 115.1 million (2022) and [INSERT AMOUNT REPORTED FOR 2023]. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the Landmine Monitor has recorded from 2020-2025 funding to mine action from donors at approximately [INSERT TOTAL AMOUNT] (565.2 million (2020), 543.5 million (2021), 798.4 million (2022) and [INSERT AMOUNT REPORTED FOR 2023]. The Landmine Monitor emphasised that a small number of countries receive most of the funding. In general funding to mine action remains globally low compared to other areas of international assistance and is insufficient to address the needs faced by mine affected States.

39. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 27 States Parties reported providing support to mine affected States Parties including: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

40. Since the Fourth Review Conference, funding for victim assistance efforts remain low with several States Parties reporting little or no funding having been received. The lack of (sustainable) funding remains a major impediment to addressing the needs of victims. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the proportion for victim assistance funding at a global level remains approximately 4-8% of global funding. Increasing funding to victim assistance activities will be important going forward including through global mine action budgets and through the integration of victim assistance into other funding envelopes (such as humanitarian or development envelopes) in countries affected by anti-personnel mines. In supporting victim assistance activities, the States Parties have noted the importance of ensuring that support is provided in a non-discriminatory manner and that it reaches mine affected communities, often located in rural or remote areas. Likewise, low funding for mine risk education and reduction efforts remains a critical challenge, with funding totalling less than 1% of total global funding. Addressing these financial gaps would be important going forward to meet the objectives of the Convention.

41. Due to the lack of available national and international funding to match the demand for resources, the States Parties have reiterated the importance of States Parties exploring all possible alternatives and /or innovative sources of funding. In this regard, only three States Parties – Angola, Cambodia, and the United Kingdom – have reported on efforts in this regard. A great deal of these efforts has centred around engaging the private sector in contributing resources to the Convention's implementation. Nevertheless, since the Fourth Review Conference, efforts have been put forward by States Parties and the mine action community to continue exploring alternative and innovative sources of funding. In this regard, several efforts have been put forth to further understand how innovative financing could be employed to support implementation. For example, on 7-9 March 2022, the United

Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office including the Global Mine Action Programme team, the Counter-Proliferation and Arms Control Centre and the United Kingdom Mission Geneva, organised an event entitled “Utilising innovative financing models to further the goal of a landmine free world” at Wilton Park. The event was used as an initial brainstorming on innovative financing and included experts who presented on different funding models including “outcomes finance – Impact Bonds”, “Public – Private Partnerships” and “Front-loading finance”. Furthermore, studies such as “Innovative Finance for Mine Action Improving the Effectiveness of Mine Action through Innovative Finance”¹ of 2021 and “Innovative Finance for Mine Action: Needs and Potential Solutions”² of 2023 have provided insights into the possibilities of innovative financing.

42. The States Parties have noted the importance of States Parties requiring assistance developing resource mobilisation plans for implementation and to make use of the Convention’s mechanisms to share information on challenges and requirements, including through Article 7 reports as well as taking advantage of the Individualised Approach. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 34 States Parties requiring support have shared information on their progress, challenges and requirements for assistance in their Article 7 Reports including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Some of the main challenges reported by States Parties have included lack of resources, un-demarcated borders, international technical assistance, technical and operational challenges such as lack of national capacity, unregistered mine contamination, climate conditions, contamination other than anti-personnel mines, Covid-19 crisis, security, topographical challenges, lack of equipment, political instability, armed non state actors, natural disasters, amongst others.

43. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 12 States Parties have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach to share information on their progress, challenges and requirements for assistance including: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, and Türkiye. While the Individualised Approach is viewed as an important platform, it is widely understood that such an effort must be accompanied by an in-country effort to ensure dialogue with national and international stakeholders. In this regard, the States Parties have recognised the importance of affected States establishing national platforms to ensure regular dialogue among all stakeholders. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 8 States Parties have reported on the establishment or efforts to establish platforms to strengthen dialogue at a national level: Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Yemen. Despite these efforts, no State Party reported on the successful establishment of a national mine action platform in which all stakeholders (e.g. operators, donors, state authorities, international partners etc.) meet regularly to discuss progress in implementation. The establishment of such platforms, as indicated by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, is critical to demonstrate national ownership, strengthen coordination and contribute to resource mobilisation efforts.

44. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties recognised the importance of States Parties in a position to provide assistance coordinating their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 15 States Parties have reported using existing mechanisms (e.g., UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund, Mine Action Support Group) to coordinate their funding including: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Despite the efforts to coordinate funding, improving coordination between donors to ensure the successful application of the cooperation and assistance commitments under Article 6 of the

¹ <https://www.halotruster.org/media/7786/innovative-finance-for-mine-action.pdf>

² https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/user_upload/INNOVATIVE_FINANCE_FOR_MINE_ACTION_NEEDS_AND_POTENTIAL_SOLUTIONS.pdf

Convention will be crucial going forward. Since the Fourth Review Conference, most funding continues to be directed towards a small number of States Parties while other States Parties receive limited or no support for their implementation efforts. Greater coordination amongst donor for the implementation of the Convention could support States Parties in achieving their completion dates and prevent further requests for extension from being submitted.

45. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties recognised the importance of exploring 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. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 24 States Parties have reported on efforts in this regard, including Australia, Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, France, Estonia, Japan, Finland, Lithuania, Peru, New Zealand, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand and Türkiye, and the United Kingdom.

46. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties have raised awareness of the importance of implementation of the cooperation and assistance elements of the OAP to foster cooperation and assistance for the implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible including by the following:

(a) During the 30 June – 2 July 2020 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance organised a panel discussion on “Aligning Donor Coordination to Support Implementation of the Oslo Action Plan”. The panel discussion included participation from a representative of Chile, Colombia, Japan, United Kingdom, and the Mine Action Support Group. The panel highlighted that the Oslo Action Plan provides key elements to foster international cooperation and assistance and highlighted the need to continue exploring the strengthening of cooperation and assistance to make real progress towards meeting the 2025 ambition of the States Parties. The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance also shared best practices and lessons learned to support and assist States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. In this regard, the panel concluded that national ownership continues to be cornerstone of this effort and that cooperation and assistance comes in many forms including through south-south cooperation and the exchange of lessons learned and best practices;

(b) During the 22-24 June 2021 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance organised a panel discussion on “Mobilising Resources towards a Mine Free World”. The panel discussion included participation from a representative of Japan, Sudan, the United Kingdom, the Mine Action Support Group, the GICHD, and the UNDP. The panel explored the relevant cooperation and assistance actions of the OAP and reflected on how they interact with each other to provide guidance to States Parties in mobilising resources to fulfil their commitments as soon as possible. The panel also looked at the results of discussions between the Committee and stakeholders to explore how to integrate best practices to ensure that States Parties successfully achieve their 2025 ambitions. The panel once again highlighted, amongst other, the importance of national ownership, the establishment of national mine action platforms to support resource mobilisation, and the importance of the integration of mine action activities into implementation of the SDGs as well as into broader national frameworks;

(c) During the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance organised a panel discussion entitled “Cooperation and Assistance and the Oslo Action Plan – Towards improved cooperation and assistance”. The panel was moderated by Thailand in its capacity as Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, and included representatives from Cambodia, Mauritania, Zimbabwe, and Italy as new Chair of the Mine Action Support Group. The panel discussion called attention to the fact that since the Fourth Review Conference, while funding in some years has increased, most of the funding has been allotted to a handful of countries and highlighted the importance of providing increased funding to States Parties that are close to meeting their completion milestones and to ensure that other mine affected States Parties are not left behind. The panel further considered the importance of donor states increasing coordination and the role the MASG could play in strengthening coordination.

47. The Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/257 in support of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) for the implementation of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction continued to provide support to States Parties in their implementation efforts by providing an important platform for States Parties at a national, regional and international level to highlight challenges in implementation and to share best practices. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 7 States Parties took advantage of this support to hold national stakeholder dialogues: Colombia, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Peru, Sudan, Zimbabwe. Likewise, the regional dialogue in Ghana and the Global Victim Assistance Conference in Cambodia provided an important platform to discuss progress and challenges in implementation which will contribute to the development of the Siem Reap - Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029. The States Parties have recognised the important contributions of the EU Council Decision to support States Parties in the implementation of their commitments under the Convention.

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