



Statement by Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Tenth International Pledging Conference

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Geneva

Madame President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, colleagues,

Humanity & Inclusion appreciates the opportunity to take the floor today. We extend our sincere gratitude to the States Parties, fellow mine action operators, and civil society organizations whose unwavering dedication continues to advance the shared objective of a world free from the impact of anti-personnel mines. This commitment remains fundamental in mitigating the humanitarian and developmental consequences of these indiscriminate weapons.

We welcome recent advances to adopt evermore innovative approaches that serve to accelerate survey and clearance efforts, such as the increasing use of unmanned aerial systems, as well as the development of people-centered methodologies to engage communities in risk education. We also commend efforts to adapt preparedness measures and mine action responses to environmental and climate change considerations, as reflected in the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

Despite these advances, Handicap International / Humanity & Inclusion is deeply concerned by acute reductions in financial commitments to international development, which are already severely impacting mine action activities. These reductions come at a time when ongoing and renewed conflicts, coupled with increasingly complex contamination patterns, continue to pose significant challenges. A decrease in financial support risks slowing the clearance of hazardous areas, delaying assistance to victims and life-saving risk education, and jeopardizing the commitments made under the Convention. We call on all States Parties to work together to address this funding crisis with urgency and creativity. In addition to sustained donor commitments, new avenues for support must be explored.

It is also essential to reaffirm our collective responsibility to ensure that mine action remains inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of affected populations. Gender, diversity, and disability inclusion must remain central pillars of all mine action efforts. Explosive ordnance affects individuals in different ways, and the capacity to access services, participate in decision-making, and benefit from mine action efforts is not uniform across all groups. Women, men, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities each face distinct challenges, and mine action must account for these realities. Only through an inclusive and rights-based approach can we ensure that no one is left behind in our pursuit of a mine-free world.

Humanity & Inclusion remains committed to supporting the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to working alongside States Parties and partners to strengthen the impact and sustainability of mine action.

Thank you.