

ITF Enhancing Human Security Address

at the 22nd Meeting of States Parties of Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, Geneva, 1-5 December 2025

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour to address you on behalf of ITF Enhancing Human Security. Each year, this Convention reminds us of something simple but powerful: when we act together, we save lives. And when we hesitate, civilians pay the price. Few international instruments make this as clear as the Ottawa Convention.

In many regions affected by conflict, contamination continues to shape daily life. New incidents, shifting frontlines, and emerging hazardous areas make one thing clear: mine action is not a static field. It evolves with the contexts we serve, and so must our responses.

Throughout the years, one message has held firm: humanitarian mine action is only effective when it is comprehensive. Clearance, risk education, and victim assistance are not separate tasks—they are interconnected responsibilities. When one is weakened, the others feel the strain. And nowhere is this more evident than in victim assistance.

Victim assistance, in particular, must not become the quiet corner of mine action—the part we all endorse in principle but attend to only when other priorities allow. Later is too late for the people waiting for prosthetics, for families struggling after a breadwinner is injured, or for children coping with trauma long after the explosion fades from the headlines.

The needs are long-term and often complex: medical care, rehabilitation, mental health and psychosocial support, and opportunities for survivors to rebuild their lives in stability and dignity.

Mine action succeeds best when the people most affected are not just beneficiaries, but partners. Localization is not a slogan—it is how results endure. Local organizations understand the terrain, the culture, and the needs far better than any outsider could, and their involvement strengthens credibility, sustainability, and community trust. In the past 27 years of work,

we have learned that strong local partnerships move mine action forward even in the most challenging environments.

Looking ahead, cooperation and assistance remain essential. Affected States need steady, realistic support, and donors need confidence that their contributions translate into tangible impact. And all of us need to ensure that the humanitarian purpose of this Convention remains our guidepost, even as global instability and competing crises stretch resources.

In this spirit, ITF remains committed to support the Convention, working alongside our local partners, and keeping affected people at the centre of mine action. We extend our sincere appreciation to all donors, partners, and national authorities whose continued support makes this work possible. Your commitment ensures that assistance reaches those who need it, that progress remains steady, and that the goals of this Convention remain within reach.

Thank you.