

ICBL Statement on Voluntary Trust Fund
22nd Meeting of States Parties, Mine Ban Treaty
Geneva, 1-5 December 2025

Thank you, Madam President,

ICBL would like to thank the Working Group for the progress they have made in exploring the feasibility of establishing a voluntary trust fund to support affected States Parties struggling to secure international assistance for their commitments under Article 5. In the Landmine Monitor we have repeatedly noted the need for Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention community to consider how all affected States Parties can meet their clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty, and we believe that a voluntary trust fund is a mechanism that can help to achieve this.

We welcome the findings of the working group outlined in the progress report, in particular:

- The confirmation that there is **no existing funding mechanism or alternative options** that can support States Parties which receive little or no international bilateral or multilateral financial assistance and have limited national means, particularly Least Developed Countries.
- That it is therefore important to establish a **dedicated and targeted funding mechanism** to ensure all States Parties can fulfil their Article 5 commitments in a timely manner. We agree with the committee, that without the establishment of a Voluntary Trust Fund, funding gaps will be perpetuated, with an increased reliance on deadline extensions, with the risk of some affected States Parties being left behind. In 2024, the Monitor once again found that several affected States Parties – particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa - struggled to obtain international funds, impacting their ability to meet their Article 5 obligations as soon as possible.
- We agree that if such a Voluntary Trust Fund is established, it can significantly **enhance the effectiveness, credibility, and results-oriented approach** of the Convention, and support **overall universalization** efforts. This is particularly important given the challenging funding environment we are currently facing. It is even more essential that States Parties take timely action to address funding gaps and maintain robust and equitable international cooperation. A VTF mechanism could provide a steadying hand in these uncertain times.

We note that the Working Group still has further work to undertake to refine a Terms of Reference for the fund, as well as robust frameworks for accountability, monitoring, and evaluation, and we stand ready to provide assistance and input as required. We ask all States parties to consider the findings of the Working Group Progress Report and to support the process of establishment, so that we can see this mechanism set up sooner rather than later, enabling greater progress towards the achievement of Article 5.

Thank you.