

Agenda Item 9

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

c) Cooperation and Assistance: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

Statement by MAG

Thank you, Madame President,

MAG welcomes the opportunity to speak to this agenda item.

As a humanitarian mine action organisation working in partnership with national authorities and communities across more than 30 countries, MAG has witnessed firsthand how strong national ownership, in hand with international, regional and/or bilateral cooperation and assistance, are fundamental to sustaining progress and enabling States Parties to advance toward the full implementation of Article 5, and other obligations.

Article 6 of this Convention on Cooperation and Assistance embodies our collective commitment to fulfil the treaty's humanitarian objectives. This commitment is more vital than ever, as we continue to witness how new and evolving conflicts across several regions are generating additional contamination, often in areas already struggling with humanitarian need. To protect civilians and safeguard humanitarian access, mine action efforts must be supported with the flexibility and resources needed to respond to these evolving threats.

In addition, we note with concern that funding for mine action faces increasing constraints, a trend highlighted in the latest edition of the Mine Action Review, which jeopardizes national ownership and treaty compliance. In this context, continued international assistance, not only financial, but also technical and political, remains indispensable to safeguarding the women, girls, men, and boys whose lives and livelihoods are affected by landmines.

Madame President,

Resource mobilisation for mine action is more necessary than ever to support the 57 countries that remain contaminated with anti-personnel mines. We commend the efforts of States that are allocating national resources to meet their Article 5 obligations. These efforts deserve sustained international support, and we strongly encourage predictable and long-term assistance, rather than reliance on short-term or emergency funding.

We acknowledge the important contributions made to date, and efforts undertaken to enhance cooperation and assistance. For instance, we welcome efforts under Action 44, of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) which have led to ongoing discussions on the feasibility of establishing a voluntary trust fund to support affected States Parties facing persistent challenges in securing the international assistance required to meet their Article 5 obligations. This is a step in the right direction to complement regional, international and bilateral cooperation and assistance. MAG stands ready to support its design and operationalisation.

At the same time, we must recognise that several States Parties are dealing with new or previously undocumented forms of contamination, including improvised anti-personnel mines. Countries in the Middle East, Sahel and West Africa are among those increasingly affected. Addressing these evolving threats requires not only constant and reliable funding but also specialised technical expertise and flexible cooperation mechanisms which extends to clearance, victim assistance, risk education, advocacy and capacity building.

MAG also express concerned about so-called forgotten contexts, where contamination is significant, yet attention and resources remain limited. Without renewed and sustained support, progress risks stalling, and entire communities will continue to suffer the humanitarian and socio-economic consequences of AP mines contamination.

We thank all States that, despite current global pressures, continue to provide support for mine action. Your sustained commitment is vital to preserving the Convention’s lifesaving impact. Finally, we wish to underline that Article 6 affirms a core principle of this Convention: no State Party should be left to confront the humanitarian and socio- economic consequences of anti-personnel mines on its own.

I thank you, Madame President.