

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Intersessional meetings 2025

5. Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

Statement by Norway

President,

Norway remains a committed and predictable partner to mine action under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Allow me to share a few reflections on the current situation and the way forward.

We are increasingly concerned about the growing financial pressures facing the mine action sector, humanitarian and development assistance at large. Several key funding streams have been reduced, widening the gap between available resources and urgent needs. This comes at a time when many affected states face serious challenges in meeting clearance deadlines and addressing growing humanitarian needs.

These cuts also risk undermining critical efforts to mainstream gender in mine action, which is essential to ensure that responses meet the specific needs of women, men, girls, and boys, and contribute to more inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

In this context, flexible and predictable financing is more important than ever. It enables national authorities and operators to adapt to shifting priorities while ensuring mine action remains efficient, responsive, and effective. We believe the creation of a Voluntary Trust Fund under the Convention could address some of the funding challenges by providing support to states that are on the right track to completion but lack necessary funding. As Chair of the Working Group assessing the feasibility of such a fund, Norway will provide more information about the status of the Working Group's activities and plans under agenda item 7c. Norway will continue to provide long-term and predictable support to mine action. At the same time, we must strengthen efficiency, accountability, and impact across the sector. Scarce resources must be used wisely, ensuring that technical and non-technical survey is fully utilized to enable safe and credible land release.

The global discussions on the UN80 agenda and the ongoing humanitarian reset are directly relevant for mine action. We must preserve operational capacity at country level. A reformed humanitarian system must place locally-led responses at its core, recognizing the crucial role of national authorities and local actors in delivering mine action effectively and sustainably.

President,

Mine action remains a humanitarian imperative, with the protection of civilians at its core. We expect all humanitarian actors to uphold the humanitarian principles that underpin this work— ensuring that assistance is provided on the basis of need, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.

Finally, realizing the “centrality of protection” in mine action is essential if we are to reduce vulnerabilities and address the humanitarian consequences of mines and explosive remnants of war. Mine action is not only about clearance — it is about saving lives, restoring livelihoods, and enabling affected communities to rebuild in safety and dignity.

Thank you.