

Agenda Item 5: Cooperation and Assistance

Thank you, Madam Chair. Your excellencies. We wish to express our gratitude to the Coordinating Committee – Denmark, Türkiye, Cameroon, and Switzerland – for the work that they have conducted to further advance the work towards implementing Article 6 among States Parties.

Last year, the UK celebrated ten years of delivery through the Global Mine Action Programme, or GMAP. In our 11th year, we reaffirm our commitment to a mine-free world. We are funding mine action in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe, delivering through international NGOs, national operators and UNMAS in support of national plans and local communities.

During our last financial year, we released over 20 million m2 of contaminated land back to communities, destroying over 10,000 anti-personnel mines for 120,000 direct beneficiaries. Over two-thirds of our beneficiaries reported their livelihoods have improved since our clearance work. **Our risk education services** provided face-to-face sessions to over 640,000 people, of whom 85% reported safer **behaviour** subsequently.

We continue to advocate for innovative mechanisms that bring in additional funding and deliver stronger outcomes for communities. Our development impact bond pilot project in Cambodia with APOPO continues to deliver increased incomes for the farmers involved. We are working with Danish Church Aid to design and deliver a new development impact bond pilot project in Syria. We will continue to share lessons learnt from both projects with the sector. **We are pleased to announce we have signed** a grant arrangement with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to establish an Innovative Financing Secretariat to act as a focal point and incubator of new innovative finance ideas, including a frontloading mechanism for the mine action sector.

Thank you, Madam Chair