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**Statement delivered by Greta Zeender
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Cooperation and Assistance

**Intersessional Meeting of the APMBC
Geneva, Switzerland, 17-20 June 2025**

Madam President,

Cooperation and assistance are key enablers for fulfilling Convention obligations. Let me highlight four specific points on how to increase their impact.

First, we need to make full use of cooperation and assistance tools developed in the framework of the Convention. In particular, the Individualised Approach and National Mine Action Platforms provide structured channels for States Parties to report progress, share challenges, communicate assistance needs and coordinate efforts by all actors. Unfortunately, both have been underutilized. We welcome the mention of these mechanisms in the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan and encourage leveraging their potential.

Second, international cooperation and assistance need strong national leadership to be effective and sustainable. Even the most well-coordinated international cooperation will not yield results without national partners to guide and strengthen these efforts. The new Action Plan rightfully underscores the importance of building sustainable national capacities in this respect. In addition, and for the first time, it calls for strengthened localization efforts as central to the sustainability of interventions, including through direct financial support to local organizations.

Third, we should embrace a more balanced approach to international assistance. Current funding priorities neglect countries dealing with legacy contamination, even as they near completion. While emergency cases must be prioritized, supporting those in the final stages of Article 5 implementation is equally important. Additionally, time-bound obligations often receive more funding than other critical areas like risk education and victim assistance. We need to ensure predictable funding for these vital components of mine action, including those related to diversity considerations.

We recognize the urgent need to diversify funding sources to enhance the resilience of mine action efforts. In this regard, we welcome the Committee's engagement with the Mine Action Support Group, and the sector's efforts to broaden funding avenues, including discussions on the Voluntary Trust Fund and innovative financing models. These initiatives are especially

important considering recent funding reductions by some key donors. We also welcome the panel discussions on these matters during this Intersessional Meeting.

Fourth, and final, we must maintain and strengthen support for inclusive mine action implementation. The SRAAP consistently mainstreams gender and diversity considerations across all areas of Convention implementation. This inclusive approach ensures that diverse needs and experiences of mine-affected communities are acknowledged and addressed. In its efforts to leave no one behind, the SRAAP enhances the relevance, impact, and sustainability of mine action efforts, while upholding the core humanitarian values that underpin this Convention.

Madam President,

Through its Regional Cooperation Programmes, the GICHD contributes to enhanced cooperation and assistance. Targeting Arab- and French-speaking countries, as well as States from Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia, these programmes provide platforms to disseminate latest standards and methodologies and for national actors to exchange technical expertise and national experiences.

Most recently, through its Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme, the Centre delivered a regional EORE course for Programme Managers from eight APMBC States Parties. The event contributed to strengthened national capacities in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EORE activities.

At the end of the month, we will also convene the first Innovative Finance Technical Working Group meeting, bringing together relevant finance, investment and mine action experts to advance the structuring of innovative finance mechanisms.

The GICHD looks forward to strengthening cooperation with all of you and will continue supporting regional platforms for technical exchange.

Thank you.