

Intervention on behalf of the Committee of Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

- Thank you Madam President

- Cameroon has the honour of chairing the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, alongside our colleagues from Slovenia, Switzerland, and Thailand. Our mandate is straightforward, yet too often treated as optional: to ensure that Article 6 of the Convention is not a polite aspiration but a lived reality.

- Cooperation and assistance have always been one of the main commitments of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. In fact, without Cooperation and Assistance a number of State Parties would not have reached their completion goals. The Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan reminds us—again—that while each State Party bears responsibility for its own implementation, enhanced cooperation is what turns obligations into outcomes. We all know this. The question is: are we acting on this understanding? And what can we do better?

- In that spirit, the President of the Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, the Netherlands, established the informal Cooperation and Assistance Fund. Its purpose is deliberately practical: to strengthen cooperation between affected States Parties, particularly South–South, through the voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned. The Fund offers modest but catalytic support—between 5,000 and 10,000 CHF—to enable study visits and expert exchanges. The amounts are small, but the impact can be significant when used well.

- This is fully aligned with Action 45 of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan, which urges States Parties to explore international, regional, bilateral, and triangular cooperation.

- The Cooperation and Assistance Fund had its first pilot project in November 2024 which included an exchange between the recently established Nigerian Mine Action Center to the Turkish Mine Action Centre. The feedback from both sides was unambiguous: these exchanges matter. They accelerate implementation. They prevent avoidable mistakes and build confidence and capacity.

- We are therefore eager—truly eager—to receive expressions of interest from States wishing to benefit from the Fund. But let us be equally clear: the Fund is voluntary, and its resources are limited. At present, it can support one more study visit. One.

- We would ask interested States to contact the Committee or ISU for further information on how you could make a contribution to the fund or if your State would like to take advantage of the support offered by the Fund.

- Madam President, thank you for inviting the Committee to share these remarks. We hope they will prompt those in a position to support the fund to consider a contribution.