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**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION – INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**

**18-20 JUNE 2024**

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

18 June 2024

Agenda item 4: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on the

Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: 15:00 – 18:00

Thank you Mr President,

[PLACEHOLDER FOR LANGUAGE IF THIS IS THE FIRST STATEMENT  
DELIVERED BY THE UK AT THE MEETING]

The United Kingdom remains committed to the convention and its humanitarian principles as we work together marking this twenty-fifth year of operation.

International co-operation and assistance remain as important as ever, as we collectively refresh our focus and determination for the next five years of mine action.

The UK works closely with other donors and national mine action authorities to deliver impactful interventions that reflect national priorities and benefit communities. In Ukraine, for example, where we remain resolute in our commitment to addressing the deadly consequences of Russia's illegal invasion, the UK is an active participant in the Sectoral Working Group. We are also working closely with Dutch and Swiss colleagues through the UNDP to identify innovative finance mechanisms for Ukraine. Globally, we continue to support the sector through research projects to address evidence gaps, through our promotion of a sector wide theory of change, and through our championing of innovative finance.

The UK's main programme vehicle The Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP) - now in its third iteration - is currently active in 11 countries, funding a country-specific mix of demining, risk education and national capacity building. Since April 2022, GMAP3 has cleared and confirmed safe over 20.5 million square metres of land and delivered risk education messages to over 547,000 people living in mine-affected communities. This takes the UK's total investment in mine action since GMAP's inception in 2014 to over £210 million – an investment which has resulted in over 686 million square metres of land being cleared and confirmed safe, and over 5.3

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million people reached by life-saving risk education. This financial year GMAP's budget has risen to £23 million, a significant increase on recent years. This allows us to increase funding to our lead implementing partners the HALO Trust and Mines Advisory Group, in all our active countries.

This includes an uplift to Ukraine, our largest country programme, reflecting the scale of the challenge there and the link to global food security, as well as in high-need areas such as Afghanistan. We are also including uplifts to support mine action efforts globally; for example, we are tripling support to South Sudan, in recognition of the humanitarian challenges there, and re-starting risk education work in Sudan through UNMAS as a response to the increased risk to the civilian population due to conflict. We are also scaling up our long-term support to Angola, Cambodia, and Zimbabwe as they work towards mine free status.

As well as this global commitment, the UK continues to invest in exploring alternative sources of funding in accordance with Action 42 of the Oslo Action Plan. Our innovative finance project in Cambodia, working with APOPO and agricultural organisation Cordaid, is showing impressive early results. We intend to present at the Fifth Review Conference in Siem Reap in November and are considering how to progress a second stage of this project as well as looking for opportunities to establish new innovative finance pilots in other countries. The UK welcomes partnerships with other donors to help take this work forward.

The UK will host a Wilton Park event with the mine action sector's largest donors and several key stakeholders later this month, focused on enhancing donor co-ordination amongst other key issues, and looks forward to sharing the event's outcomes with all colleagues across the convention. The UK remains committed in its support of the convention, the ISU and the president in this landmark year. Thank you.