



## **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings**

**June 2024**

### **Statement on Enhancement of Cooperation & Assistance**

*Check against delivery.*

Thank you, President/Chair.

As this is the first time The HALO Trust is taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you and Cambodia on your Presidency and thank you for your important work during the last months. We look forward to continue working with you and the ISU ahead of and during the Fifth Review Conference in Siem Reap later this year.

The Fifth Review Conference, and the new Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan, represent a key opportunity to revitalise the mine action sector around more focused efforts. For that, the Oslo Action Plan and its indicators, which allowed for measuring progress and accountability, offers a solid basis for the international community to prepare for the next five years.

Since the adoption of the Oslo Action Plan in 2019, the sector has witnessed an increased use of landmines, both in long-standing and new conflicts, alongside an ever-widening funding gap. Last year's Mine Action Review report outlined that 57 States and three other areas are still contaminated with anti-personnel mines.

To support affected countries and territories, it is essential to increase coordination of traditional funding and explore innovative finance solutions in parallel, including those



from the private sector. We need greater attention on States Parties currently unable to meet their Article 5 obligations due to a lack of funding.

Demining is integral to humanitarian efforts and plays a crucial role in reducing the causes of conflict and building resilience at the local level. However, a one-size-fits-all global target does not capture the nuanced realities faced by different State Parties and beyond. Each affected country has unique challenges and capacities, requiring our sector's approach to reflect this diversity.

Moving forward, it is essential to consider tailored interventions and targets to ensure substantial progress. Adequate financing must be made available for affected States to achieve these goals. We would welcome a States Party-led completion fund to strengthen national capacity and advance outstanding Article 5 obligations. Exploring a similar mechanism to the Voluntary Trust Fund of the Arms Trade Treaty could advance Article 5 progress. It is important that such an initiative would be State-owned, embedded into the Convention machinery and tailored to ensure support to the implementation of this Treaty in particular. The Fifth Review Conference offers the opportunity to embed the establishment of such a fund into the Siem Reap Action Plan through a relevant Action.

HALO is an active member of the Gender and Diversity Working Group and the Environmental Issue and Mine Action Working Group. Therefore, we would like to reiterate that International Cooperation and Assistance should be responsive to gender, age, disability and other diversity considerations, as well as climate change and environmental protection.

I would like to finish by stating that HALO welcomed your strong collaboration with civil society organisations and we look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the Review Conference includes strong and meaningful commitments, actions, and indicators to equip us well for the years ahead.

Thank you.

