

ICBL Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance

Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Meetings, 18-20 June 2024

Thank you Chair,

Landmine Monitor data shows that States Parties have been a stable and consistent contributor to mine action over the last five years, in line with Article 6 of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Oslo Action Plan commitments. In 2022 we saw a welcome increase in global support for mine action, up 52% from 2021. While 20% of the increase went to mine action in Ukraine, 17% represented new funding for other states. Despite this increase, in the current context of multiple conflicts around the world, growing humanitarian needs, as well as long delayed completion of Article 5 obligations, it remains crucial that States Parties continue to find new solutions to support the timely implementation of treaty obligations by all. There are three areas we would like to draw attention to:

Firstly, while each and every State Party with Article 5 obligations has a right to international support, data shows that a large proportion of international donor funding goes to only a small group of affected countries. In 2022, the top ten recipient countries of international support received 73% of the total. A large number of affected states have relatively small amounts of remaining contamination, but struggle to meet their Article 5 obligations, often due to a lack of funding despite having made regular appeals for support. The donor community must consider how funds for survey, clearance, and capacity-building can be distributed to these less high-profile countries to ensure they have the resources needed to complete clearance as soon as possible, as required by the convention. We support the concept of a “Completion Fund” or similar mechanisms that could achieve such an aim, and we are highly interested in working on the elaboration of the idea together with other partners.

Secondly, even in countries where the last mine has been removed, we have a commitment to support those whose lives have been affected through injury or loss of a loved one. Figures from the Landmine Monitor show that since 2017, support to victims has remained low as a proportion of overall mine action funding, between 4 to 8%, and in 2022 over half of all victim assistance support went to just three countries - Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen. We urge States Parties to allocate more dedicated funds to victim assistance in all regions and countries where there is a need.

Finally, with donors and humanitarian actors calling for greater localization efforts, we urge the mine action community to strengthen its own efforts in this regard. While the Monitor research found that funds allocated towards national capacity building increased in 2022, representing 9% of international funds, this was not matched by an increase in global mine action spending flowing directly to local organizations working in mine action. Indeed, in 2022, less than 1% of international mine action support went to local partners in a handful of States Parties. We hope that we will see a significant change in the amount of funding directed to our partners in affected countries in the coming years, helping to ensure that assistance gets where it is needed as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

In closing, we look forward to the development of the Siem Reap Action Plan and expect to see several concrete commitments to enhance cooperation and assistance and to speed up progress towards our shared goal of a world free from antipersonnel mines.

Thank you