

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

(Algeria (Chair), Denmark, Japan, Türkiye)

Intersessional Meetings  
18-20 June 2024

#### I. Purpose, mandate and organisation of the Committee

The Maputo Review Conference established the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance with the following purpose, “to assist the States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, in line with their reaffirmation that ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines is a shared commitment”.

With this purpose in mind the Committee was mandated to, “promote cooperation and assistance under the Convention, facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance, and coordinate with other implementation mechanisms established by the States Parties in order to facilitate and accelerate the full implementation of the Convention.”

The Fourth Review Conference expanded the Committee’s mandate to:

- Review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.
- Consider matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work.

#### II. Strengthening Partnerships

The Committee views the strengthening of partnerships between States Parties and other actors in a position to provide assistance, both financial and technical, and States Parties requiring assistance is critical for the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention.

##### Individualised Approach (IA)

As part of the Committee’s mandate to, in part, “promote cooperation and assistance under the Convention” and to “facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance” the Committee continued its work on supporting the IA.

Ahead of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee supported Somalia, Tajikistan and Türkiye in participating in the IA. The Committee also supported these States in finalizing the Final Report and instructed the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to upload the Report and presentations on their respective country page on the Convention’s website, in line with Action #43 of the Oslo Action Plan which stipulates, in part, that “States Parties will share the outcomes of the individualised approach with the wider mine action community in order to maximise its impact.”

- Somalia: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/membership/somalia/individualised-approach/>
- Tajikistan: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/membership/tajikistan/individualised-approach/>
- Türkiye: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/membership/turkiye/individualised-approach/>

Following the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee engaged Peru who expressed interest in participating in the Individualized Approach. Peru will hold an IA discussion in the margins of the 2024 Intersessional Meetings, with the Committee providing support and assistance in drafting the invitation and programme for the event for distribution to selected invitees.

To date, the Committee has supported 18 States Parties in taking advantage of the IA since 2016 including Angola (2018), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2020), Cambodia (2019, 2022), Chad (2022), Croatia (2016), Democratic Republic of the Congo (2020), Guinea-Bissau (2022), Mauritania (2021), Niger (2020), Senegal (2023), Serbia (2018), Sri Lanka (2018), Sudan (2018), Somalia (2018 and 2023), Zimbabwe (2017 and 2018), Ecuador (2019), Tajikistan (2019 and 2023), and Türkiye (2023).

### National Mine Action Coordination Platforms

The Committee noted that the IA, in part, offers a platform for affected States Parties to strengthen their partnerships for implementation of the Convention at a national level. However, a robust national conversation between stakeholders is essential to strengthen and foster partnerships for completion, in line with Action #44 of the Oslo Action Plan, according to which States Parties commit to “strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. They will consider, where relevant, establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.”

In this regard, the Committee presented a Sample model for a National Mine Action Platform (NMAP) to the Fourth Review Conference and continued to promote the establishment of such platforms as an important component to ensuring effective and efficient progress in the implementation of State Party commitments under the Convention.<sup>1</sup>

### Donor Coordination

While mine affected States Parties are responsible for implementation, it is understood that the donor community can also contribute to the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. This includes by strengthening the coordination of their efforts to support States Parties with their implementation as highlighted by Action #46 of the Oslo Action Plan, which states that “States Parties in a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties.”

### Cooperation and Assistance Fund

At the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the President established an informal Cooperation and Assistance Fund (CAF) to promote implementation of Action 47 of the Oslo Action Plan which encourages States Parties to "explore opportunities for cooperation" including "cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntarily sharing best practices and lesson learned." Representatives of mine-affected States Parties that work directly in support of the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.osloreviewconference.org/fileadmin/APMBC-RC4/Fourth-Review-Conference/National-mine-action-platforms-en.pdf>

objectives, priorities, and areas of intervention of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan 2020-2024 are eligible to take advantage of the support from the Fund.

At present the Committee is considering the first pilot study/exchange visit to take place under the Cooperation and Assistance Fund in the lead up to the Fourth Review Conference. The Committee looks forward to reporting back on this effort at the Fifth Review Conference.

### **III. Information Sharing**

As part of the Committee's mandate to look at the use of information exchange tools to foster partnerships between States Parties, the Committee has been exploring ways in which it can assist States Parties in developing their country pages on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention website to as well as the development of an online reporting tool.

#### Country web pages

The country pages on the Convention's website enable States Parties to provide information on the development of their national programmes in collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee. The Committee remains ready to assist States Parties in this regard and encourages States Parties to share relevant information with of the Implementation Support Unit.

The Committee encourages States Parties to visit their country webpages and to, through the ISU, provide any additional information it may want to highlight concerning its national programme. The Committee presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties some suggested information which States Parties may have wanted to consider in this regard.

#### Online reporting tool

In an effort to facilitate reporting, the Committee, with support of the President of the Convention, established an online reporting tools which was launched for use by States Parties in 2022. The online tool is voluntary and meant to support State in fulfilling their obligations under Article 7 and reporting on the implementation of their Oslo Action Plan commitments.

The online tool for Article 7 reporting does not replace the option to provide reports through the current system, nor would it create additional reporting requirements. The Committee reiterates that the online tool mirrors the Guide to Reporting as updated by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties. In addition to facilitating the submission of Article 7 reports, it is expected that an online reporting tool would assist in the analysis work of the President and the Convention's Committees and therefore facilitate our collaborative work in the implementation of the Convention.

#### Article 7 Reports

The Committee has reviewed the Article 7 Reports submitted within 2 June 2024 and welcomes the information submitted by States Parties on implementation of cooperation and assistance measures highlighted in the Oslo Action Plan. The Committee welcomed the provision of information in this regard from the following **46 States Parties**: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lithuania, Mali, Mauritania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Peru, Senegal,

Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

#### **IV. Preliminary observations**

The Committee intends to continue its work to fulfil its mandate in line with the identified programme of work moving towards the Fifth Review Conference.

The Committee continues to believe that the IA is an important component of Cooperation and Assistance and, in this regard, the Committee will continue to work with States Parties to take advantage of this platform and to disseminate information on their remaining challenges and needs for support. In order to ensure the success of the , the Committee (strongly) recommends that an interested State Party should take the lead and increase its engagement with the Committee and the Implementation Support Unit in the lead up to their IA meeting.

The Committee continues to recognise that the IA is not an end in itself. In this regard, the Committee will continue to promote the establishment of National Mine Action Platforms to strengthen dialogue among relevant stakeholders, and, in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference, will give specific focus on improving the effectiveness of follow-up activities at both international and national levels. The Committee remains committed to support States Parties in this regard.

In addition, the Committee encourages States Parties to continue sharing information through their Article 7 Reports and other means, including the status of implementation, and, if relevant, its needs for cooperation and assistance, to better enable States to meet their obligations under the Convention, to the fullest extent possible, by 2025. The Committee further encourages States Parties in a position to provide assistance to continue including information on support provided in Article 7 Reports to raise awareness and provide avenues for coordination / cooperation. As part of this work, the Committee continues to encourage States Parties to utilize the online reporting format and to seek the support of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the Implementation Support Unit to ensure that Article 7 Reports contain detailed information on Cooperation and Assistance and requirements for assistance.

While affected States Parties are required to demonstrate and strengthen national ownership by participating in the IA approach and establishing effective National Mine Action Platforms, donor coordination is also recommended to ensure that the affected State Parties receive the support they need in order to address their challenges. With this objective, the Committee will continue exploring areas in which donor coordination can be improved.

Concerning the information submitted by the States Parties in their 2024 Article 7 Reports (Annex):

- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by **22 States Parties** – Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, the State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Thailand ,Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe – on the commitment of national resources to meet Convention obligations. Given the Committee’s understanding that most States Parties contribute financial or in-kind resources for the implementation of their commitments, the Committee would encourage affected States Parties to increase reporting on their efforts to implement Action #42 of the Oslo Action Plan.

The Committee further recognized that in implementing Article 5 , many States Parties have reported a decrease in their national resources and others have indicated that international support can contribute to the completion of their respective time bound obligations under Article 5. The Committee would also welcome additional increased reporting on efforts to explore innovative sources of funding.

- The Committee welcomes information from **26 States Parties** – Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mali, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, the State of Palestine, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe– on their efforts to mobilize resources and disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance. The Committee encourages States to provide additional information on the challenges faced and requirements for assistance in their reports. The Committee further encourages States to take advantage of the individualised approach platform to further share their challenges and requirements for support. (Action #43 of the Oslo Action Plan)
- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by **3 States Parties** – Algeria, Angola, and Yemen – on efforts made to promote dialogue among all stakeholders. The Committee views effective coordination at a national level as a critical element for implementation and encourages other States to report on their efforts in this regard as well as to establish national mine action platforms for partnership to enable regular sustained dialogue with stakeholders including national and international implementing partners and States in a position to provide assistance. (Action #44 of the Oslo Action Plan)
- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by **14 States Parties** –Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom – on their efforts to provide support to mine clearance and victim assistance activities. (Action #45).
- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by **3 States Parties** – Belgium, Canada, and Switzerland – concerning effort to coordinate their funding. The Committee also notes that funding was also directed toward existing mechanisms such as the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund and the Mine Action Support Group (MASG). The Committee recognizes the importance of strengthening donor coordination and ensuring that this coordination facilitates completion by States Parties to the Convention (Action #46).
- The Committee also welcomes reporting by **11 States Parties** – Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Lithuania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, and Türkiye, – on cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral. (Action #47) The Committee noted that this cooperation includes the exchange of knowledge, expertise, collaboration on borders, capacity building and exchange visits. The Committee encourages States Parties to continue its efforts to report on this matter and to continue efforts in this regard. The Committee further encourages States to consider taking advantage of the Cooperation and Assistance Fund.
- Finally, the Committee welcomes information provided by 3 States Parties – Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland– on its efforts to ensure that gender and diversity are integrated in the cooperation and assistance efforts. The Committee encourages States Parties to

continue ensuring consideration for gender and diversity in their cooperation and assistance practices.

#### **Annex– Information provided by States Parties in implementation of the Oslo Action Plan**

**Action #42** *Do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible alternative and/or innovative sources of funding.*

- **Algeria** reported that the implementation of the Convention including mine clearance which has been completed has been entirely funded by the national budget, and assistance to victims that have been integrated into different departments of the government is resourced through respective departments on an annual basis.
- **Angola** reported that although confronted with financial constraints, the government continued to financially support mine action by allocating a budget to support the National Mine Action Agency (ANAM) and the National Demining Centre (CND). In addition, Angola reported that the government continued to provide financial support to The Halo Trust for the clearance of protected areas along the Okavango Delta in Cuando Cubango province.

Angola further reported that technical surveys and clearance should always be conducted in areas awarded for public and private investment projects such as: roads, hydroelectric dams, photovoltaic power stations, airports, power transmission lines, industrial centres and agricultural mega-projects and land reserves to guarantee safety in the implementation of such projects.

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation from several cantonal governments, cities and municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina for in 2024 totalling 1,332,500 BAM.
- **Cambodia** reported that the Royal Government of Cambodia is actively engaged in providing financial support and resources to the Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), specifically to its Victim Assistance Department including an annual financial contribution of approximately \$150,000. Additionally, a sum of \$85,000 is allocated from the Clearing for Results Cambodia, in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 indicated an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of US \$60 million for the period 2024-2025.
- **Colombia** reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including an annual allocation in 2023 from the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace of COP 5,986,012,889 (USD 1,566,178). Colombia also reported that these resources were allocated to risk prevention activities and care for victims, with a differential approach and to strengthening the operational capabilities in information management of the national program - *Acción Integral contra Minas Anti-personal (AICMA)*. Colombia further reported that in 2023, an annual national financial contribution from the General Budget of the Nation (PGN) was made to the Brigade of Humanitarian Demining Engineers (BRDEH) of COP 127,636,328,948 corresponding to US \$33,395,167 to cover personnel and operating costs of the tasks assigned and under development for the year, and that the Demining and Amphibious Engineer Battalion (BDIAN) was provided a contribution of COP 34,000,000 from the national budget for 2023. Colombia reported on allocation of financial resources (USD 240,711) to local representative associations of survivors to deliver risk educations in affected communities.

- **Croatia** reported making an annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including 70.3% of funds financed through the State budget, 27.6% of funds realised through European Union contributions, and 2.1% of funds contributed through the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme. Croatia further reported that all relevant public institutions that carry out activities in relation to mine victims, or include them in their programmes, finance such activities through their regular budget and that all EU funded projects are inclusive of the needs of victims.
- **El Salvador** reported that the annual budget of the is INABVE is \$78 million which covers victim assistance activities including physical rehabilitation and socio-economic inclusion.
- **Iraq** reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including the integration of mine action activities within the National Development Plan and the Ministry of Finance in order to be integrated within the national budget.
- **Jordan** reported national budgetary allocation of 230,000 dinars to the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation.
- **Mauritania** reported that national funds were allocated for training and recruitment of mine survivors.
- **Nicaragua** reported allocation of national fundings to persons with disabilities channelled through various agencies including ministry of health, social security institute and provision of funding to associations of persons with disabilities. Nicaragua further reported financing a sustainable capacity to address residual contamination.
- **Niger** reported an annual national contribution of US \$100,000 to the National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Weapons (CNCCAI) for the period of the proposed extension.
- **Peru** reported that S/4,500,000 allocated on an annual basis for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's obligations, and that as of 2020 the budget was decreased to S/3,050,000 due to COVID 19. Peru reported further decreases in the budget in 2024.
- **Serbia** reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of 260,000 EUR and that these funds were matched with donor funds. Serbia also reported undertaking activities in respective policy, coordination and programmes to improve assistance to mine victims and other persons with disabilities. Serbia also reported allocating national fundings to programmes that benefit mine victims.
- **South Sudan** reported on its efforts to provide a national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention, including meeting with the Chairperson of the Security Sector of the National Legislative Parliament to ensure South Sudan contributes to national clearance efforts to meet the clearance deadline 2026. At present, South Sudan indicated that these efforts have not borne funding.
- **The State of Palestine** reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including being responsible for the funding of the Palestine Mine Action Centre headquarters and salaries of its staff.

- **Tajikistan** reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of US \$56,710 to support humanitarian mine action and US \$480,000 in the form of technical and non-technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of Tajikistan’s obligations under the Convention. Tajikistan reported making progress in building national capacity on rehabilitation and other aspects of victim assistance, showing national commitments and national ownerships with regards to victim assistance implementation.
- **Thailand** reported that the Royal Thai Government continues to provide the majority of mine action budget of more than approximately USD 7,500,000 annually. In 2023, the Royal Thai Government allocated the total sum of THB 250,639,744 (approx. USD 6,772,216.81).
- **Türkiye** reported an annual national financial contribution, including an annual allocation of 4,300,000 TL from the national budget for the capacity development of military units in 2023, with a further 80,000,000 TL being approved by the MoND for the period 2023-2025, including 5 million TL for capacity development and 75 million TL for demining activities. Furthermore, Türkiye reported efforts that demonstrate national ownerships and commitments in meeting the needs of mine victims, particularly in areas of data collection, expansion of services into rural and remote areas, healthcare, and socio-economic inclusion. Türkiye also reported allocating a national budget to victim assistance efforts including through the Ministry of National Education and MOFSS in accordance with the “Law No. 3294 Amending the Social Assistance and Solidarity Encouragement Law” as well as through the MOH.
- **Uganda** reported that that the government is committed to availing funding to ensure that, the obligations to the Convention are met including by activities conducted under the community-based rehabilitation programme, the Special Grant for persons with disabilities to reach all the intended beneficiaries including mine survivors.
- **Yemen** reported that the annual national financial contribution of the Government of Yemen to the mine action sector has decreased significantly due to the country's economic downturn, and that economic difficulties have had a negative impact due to the cessation of a large part of the international support provided for mine action and that the current level of resource mobilisation does not meet the need, with unpredictable international donor funding challenging the planning capacity for future activities.
- **Zimbabwe** reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of US \$500,000. Zimbabwe also reported that the Ministry of Defence continues to pay for deployment and human resource expenses and that the government provides all funding for the National Mine Clearance Units (NMCU) through the national budget and that until the clearance process is completed, this funding will remain at its current level and increase as the economy strengthens.

**Action #43** *States Parties seeking assistance will develop resource mobilization plans and use all mechanisms within the Convention to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance, including through their annual Article 7 transparency reports and by taking advantage of the individualized approach. States Parties will share the outcomes of the individualized approach with the wider mine action community in order to maximize its impact.*

- **Algeria** reported that it would be desirable for its rehabilitation programme to benefit from cooperation in technical supports in areas of assistive technology and functional rehabilitation to better assist mine victims and persons with disabilities.



- **Angola** reported that lack of resources for implementing Explosive Risk Reduction Education has significantly hampered the expansion of EORE activities to the most remote rural areas of the country. This has led to risk-taking behaviour in the communities not covered and, as a consequence, the number of accidents has increased recently. Unfortunately in 2023, Angola again recorded one more demining accident. Angola further indicated that the identification of new mined areas has made it difficult to complete demining in some provinces, particularly in the municipality of Lucala Cuanza Norte Province.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** reported reduced donor interest, the inability of institutions to finance projects and a lack of understanding of the significance of the mine awareness process as key challenges faced. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the Victim Assistance Coordination Body that was created in 2018, was not operational in 2023, and in previous years it had faced limitations, such as the impossibility of making decisions due to the lack of a quorum. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported a decrease in international cooperation for victim assistance.
- **Burkina Faso** reported that improvised anti-personnel mines is a new area for Burkina Faso and consequently and that all national structures working towards the implementation of the Convention lack material and financial resources and adequate training, and that assistance is required for a better implementation of the Convention.
- **Cambodia** reported that the lack of national and international financial resources, the size of mined areas identified following survey on the border with Thailand and access to un-demarcated areas along the border as the greatest challenges facing implementation. Cambodia further reported that persons with disabilities including mine survivors in rural areas face challenges in accessing services.
- **Colombia** reported that insecurity, with eleven humanitarian demining operations suspended due to security developments in the assigned areas, including the kidnapping of three officials from a demining organisation, and the retention of ten men and four vehicles in another municipality presents the greatest challenges in implementation.
- **Croatia** reported that surveying/demining in forests and forest land present the greatest challenges in implementation. Croatia further reported that one of major challenge in victim assistance is the lack of motivation and interest among victims in participating in available activities and support programmes.
- **The Democratic Republic of the Congo** reported that the risks from venomous snakes, flooding and challenging road conditions present a challenge for implementation.
- **Ethiopia** reported challenges such as lack of reliable and disaggregated data on persons with disabilities and mine victims, negative perception towards persons with disabilities, limited access to services including due to affordability and constraints in national resources and capacity to implement and monitor respective laws and plans.
- **Guinea-Bissau** reported the inability to revisit known or suspected mined areas for survey, and loss of data prior to 2013, and that the lack of State funding to implement its work plan for the period 2024-2027 are the greatest challenges to implementation.

- **Iraq** reported on challenges in implementation, including shortages in financial support in 2023 for risk education activities.
- **Mali** reported difficult access, lack of telephone and internet networks in remote areas, destruction of telecommunications infrastructure by armed groups, low literacy levels in certain targeted areas, significant numbers of local languages and different dialects, challenges in terms of training explosive ordnance disposal teams, and the need for equipment to better respond to the continually evolving threats present in improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war are the greatest challenges in implementation. Mali further reported that the presence of different humanitarian actors has presented a challenge of coordination.
- **Niger** reported that insufficient resources, priorities in the fight against terrorism, and the first against the proliferation of weapons and lack of support from partners are the greatest challenges facing Niger. Niger further reported that the movement of personnel between Niamey - Madama cannot be made without a military escort, and a high level of insecurity, due to terrorist threats in the country and on the borders with certain neighbouring countries.
- **Peru** reported budget cuts of State budget allocation for the fulfilment of its Article 5 mine clearance obligations after COVID, climate change, and geographical factors that provide challenges to risk education campaigns are the main challenges facing implementation.
- **Senegal** reported insecurity, inaccessibility of the mined areas, and a lack of funding are the greatest challenges impacting implementation. Senegal also reported that for past 7 years the Senegalese Mine Action Centre (CNAMS) encountered lack of financial resources and as such did not provide socio-economic support to mine victims. Senegal also reported implementing the same plan on victim assistance which was developed 15 years ago.
- **Serbia** reported unregistered mine contaminated areas, newly discovered mine suspected areas, climatic conditions, and contamination other than mines as some of the greatest challenges facing implementation. Serbia also reported facing financial constraints to address the needs of mine victims including in areas of rehabilitation, psychological and peer to peer support, capacity building and improving their national database.
- **South Sudan** reported that seasons are becoming more irregular and less predictable which poses planning, logistical and security challenges, and that lack of financial resources of the government to contribute to implementation, including the payment of salaries of civil servant for a number of months in 2023 are the main challenges to implementation. South Sudan reported facing challenges in implementing victim assistance, including the followings:
  - a. Shortages of resources to address all needs of persons with disabilities and mine survivors.
  - b. Public awareness on disabilities and on the rights of persons with disabilities still inadequate to rural areas
  - c. Majority of persons with disabilities including survivors live in hard-to-reach places
  - d. Limited campaign to strengthen an integrated approach.
  - e. MGCSW lacks comprehensive needs assessment/survey data on disability.
- **The State of Palestine** reported that lack of human resources and equipment for survey, clearance and risk education activities, lack of medical staff specialised in treating injuries caused by mines and remnants of war, and a lack of information and statistics related to the victims of mines and explosive remnants of war present the greatest challenges to implementation.

- **Tajikistan** reported that the information management database is set in the ‘cloud’ and requires the setting up a local server to keep the national database ‘live’ and that this is presenting a challenge. Tajikistan also reported that security, climate, hard-to-reach mountainous areas, a short demining season, additional survey needs and funding, and requirements for equipment and funding remain some of the greatest challenges to implementation. Tajikistan reported that limited resources hinder the implementation of victim assistance, particularly as most of mine victims live in rural and remote areas.
- **Thailand** reported that access to areas with high level contamination, the geographic landscape, access to areas along the border with Cambodia, and the fact that the conditions and locations of mines buried under the ground have been altered through time, meaning additional time and resources are required for demining operations, are the key challenges affected Thailand’s implementation.
- **Türkiye** reported that improvised anti-personnel mines (victim-activated IEDs) laid by the terrorist organisation and lack of financial support from donors present the biggest challenges to implementation.
- **Uganda** reported challenges in areas of healthcare and rehabilitation and shortages of financial resources affect provision of services to persons with disabilities including mine victims. Uganda also reported even with the presence of an inter-ministerial and inter-departmental committee in place, still attention to peculiar needs of the different categories of persons with disabilities is not sufficiently given.
- **Ukraine** reported that continuation of intensive hostilities poses the greatest challenges to Ukraine’s implementation.
- **Yemen** reported that access due to the security situation, the identification of new large suspected hazardous areas, lack of funding, fluctuating support from donors (e.g. funding from UNDP ceased and subsequent standdown of sixty-six teams), weather conditions (e.g. floods), innovative explosive devices and different priorities for responding to liberated areas are the key challenges in implementation. Yemen further reported that due to widespread use of anti-personnel mines including alongside roads, without any marking, causing the growing casualties including when internally displaced people return to their communities. Yemen also reported that resources are lacking for victim assistance.
- **Zimbabwe** reported that lack of equipment, heavy rains and flooding, and the overall economic and political climate are challenges faced in implementation. Zimbabwe further reported several challenges hampering assistance to mine victims and persons with disabilities, including the followings:
  - a. there is a need to identify all mine victims but due to lack of resources the identification/survey has not been carried out.
  - b. rehabilitation services are limited, key challenge includes shortages of raw materials and equipment.
  - c. access to health centres is challenging in affected areas, with healthcare centres located at least 100km far from affected communities.
  - d. no resources available to develop a national injury surveillance system.
  - e. limited participation of by representatives of mine survivors due to financial constraints

**Action #44** *States Parties will strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention.*

- **Algeria** reported on efforts to strengthen coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for the implementation of Algeria's obligations under the Convention. Algeria reported that an Inter-Ministerial Committee is the national focal point responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention and is composed of representatives of the ministerial departments concerned by the provisions of the Convention. Algeria reported that this monitoring mechanism meets regularly to exchange information related to the Convention and that the Committee invites experts and civil society representatives working in this field to expand the prospects for consultation and coordination. Algeria further reported that, at the international level, Algeria regularly participates and hosts meetings of the Convention.
- **Angola** reported that Norwegian People's Aid, with the financial support of the Weapons Removal and Abatement Office of the United States Department of State, has contributed to achieve the operational results through training of ANAM staff, improve coordination, acquisition of specialized resources and equipment, acquisition of four vehicles, and monitoring and management of mine action information.
- **Yemen** reported on efforts to strengthen coordination, including reporting information concerning Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) and Yemen Mine Action Coordination Center (YMACC) working in accordance with a prioritization system and based on sub-agreements for projects by implementing partners. These matters are addressed through periodic meetings such as Programme Managers meetings, Operations Managers meetings for all implementing partners, hosted by YMACC. Project MASAM participated in a number of preparatory meetings for the operations of Yemen base line survey.

**Action #45** *States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance to other States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention, in line with their development policies.*

- **Australia** reported that, in 2023, it contributed over AUD8.1 million to mine action (4.1 reported in 2022) contributing directly to programmes in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Australia further indicated having provided funding to the UN Development Programme, Australia funded organisations including the Mines Advisory Group, Humanity and Inclusion, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC), and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and an Australian company, Milsearch. Australia reported that it provided a AUD 6 million multi-year grant to GICHD for mine action work with a focus on the region. Separately, removal of UXO in Kiribati was made possible with funding to Australian company Milsearch.

Australia further reported contributing at least AUD12 million worth of demining equipment to Ukraine. This includes an ADF de-mining equipment package valued at AUD12 million and additional de-mining equipment included in the AUD20 million defence industry package announced by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Industry on 25 October 2023. Australia further reported providing funding of AUD25 million to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF), which allocated USD 8.5 million to mine action in Ukraine as of 31 August 2023.

Australia reported that funding included support for clearance, risk education, UXO remediation and advocacy.

- **Belgium** reported contributing in 2023 a total of 2,738,407 EUR to Angola, Cambodia, Iraq, Syria and Ukraine to survey, clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance activities. Belgium reported that this support was provided through UNMAS (Iraq, Syria), APOPO (Angola and Cambodia), NPA (Angola) and the OSCE (Ukraine). Belgium also provided information on its contribution to pooled funds from which some mine action activities have been funded.
- **Canada** reported contributing in 2023 to mine action activities in Armenia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Ghana, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Lao PDR, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Togo, Ukraine as well as other global funding. Canada reported that this included support for clearance, training and advisory services, risk education training and implementation, gender mainstreaming, community liaison, institutional support and capacity building. Canada reports that this support is provided through, Alinea International, the HALO Trust, Humanity and Inclusion, Le Casques Blancs, MAG, Tetra Tech, NATO, UNDP, UNMAS, UNDPKO, NPA, GICHD and ICBL.
- **The Czech Republic** reported contributing in 2023 to the Implementation Support Unit (150'000 CZK), Bosnia and Herzegovina through the ITF (300'000 CZK), Ukraine through the OSCE (500'000 CZK), Ukraine through the World Food Programme - Restoring livelihoods and revitalizing rural communities affected by mine and explosive remnants of war (10'000'000 CZK). The Czech Republic indicated that it does not differentiate among various ERW in terms of assistance.
- **Germany** reported contributing in 2023 a total of 76,120,140.01 EUR to mine action activities in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Peru, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Ukraine and Zimbabwe. Germany also indicated support for multilateral programming. Germany reported that this included support for survey and clearance, training and advisory services, information management, explosive ordnance risk education training and implementation, gender mainstreaming, community liaison, institutional support and capacity building and Victim Assistance. Germany reports that this support is provided through Bundeswehr Advisory Group, the Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas, Danish Refugee Council, DEG Impulse GmbH, GIZ, Global Clearance Solutions, HALO Trust, Humanity and Inclusion, MAG, Mine Detection Dog Centre, Norwegian People's Aid, GICHD, ICRC, ICBL, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit, Cluster Munition Convention Implementation Support Unit, Small Arms Survey, Conflict Armament Research, and UNODA.
- **Japan** reported that during the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 it provided a total of US\$66'978'896 in support to humanitarian mine action in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palau, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Japan reported that this included support for Victim Assistance, Mine Clearance, mine risk education, capacity building, data collection, amongst others. Japan reports that this support is provided through, the Association for Aid and Relief of Japan, APOPO, Cambodian Mine Action Centre, Delvon Assistance for Social Harmony (DASH), HALO Trust, ICRC, Japan Mine Action Service, Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid, National demining centres, Skavita Humanitarian and Assistance Relief Project (SHARP), State Emergency Services of Ukraine, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMAS, and UXO Lao.

- **Lithuanian** reported that the Ministry of Defense in July 2025 announced an initiative to launch the international Demining Capability Coalition for Ukraine. This coalition aims to address immediate mine clearance needs and to foster modern demining capabilities for the long term – providing equipment, training, and sustainability. Formalisation procedures started in February 2024, for the time being twenty-two countries are already involved in this coalition. Participation in the coalition is voluntary, allowing nations to contribute financially, in-kind, or through training efforts.
  
- **The Netherlands** reported that through its ‘Mine Action and Cluster Munitions II’ multi-annual programme (MACM II, 2020-2024), the Netherlands is contributing a total of € 62,3 million Euro to NGO partners Mines Advisory Group, Danish Demining Group, the HALO Trust, Humanity & Inclusion and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) for mine action activities in 16 different countries: Iraq, Lebanon, South Sudan, Libya, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Somalia, Syria, Lao PDR, Nigeria, Palestinian territories, Zimbabwe, Yemen, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Colombia. In addition, the Netherlands reported that in 2023 the Netherlands has provided a contribution to the UNDP Ukraine Mine Action Programme of EUR 9,641,064. The Netherlands further reported that in 2023 the Netherlands has donated € 40,000 to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the APMBC, € 10,000 to the Sponsorship Fund and € 10,000 to the Cooperation & Assistance Fund of the APMBC. In 2023, the total contribution for Humanitarian Mine Action from The Kingdom of the Netherlands to NGOs and multilateral organisations was EUR 22,657,877. The Netherlands further reported that in 2023, the Netherlands contributed EUR 10,000 to the new Cooperation & Assistance Fund of the APMBC. Also, together with the United Kingdom, the Netherlands contributed to the development of the Sector Wide Theory of Change for Mine Action.
  
- **New Zealand** reported on its contribution to mine action in 2023 including the following :
  - NZ\$1.5 million (equivalent of US\$950,000) to UNMAS’ Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF), to support UNMAS’ coordination and implementation of efforts to mitigate the risks posed by explosive hazards through de-mining, risk education and advocacy.
  
  - NZ\$895,000 for a two-and-a-half-year period (2022-2024) to the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) to support the delivery of their mandate to build regional capacity to coordinate mine action and implement mine action standards.
  
  - NZ\$24 million, 8-year (2017-2024) package of support to the clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and cluster munitions from rural land to ensure safe use of UXO-contaminated land in Lao PDR’s Xieng Khouang Province for socio-economic, humanitarian and disaster risk reduction purposes. The consists of funding for:
    - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Lao Trust Fund to clear UXO contaminated land in Xieng Khouang Province; and
    - New Zealand technical assistance to support the capacity of UXO Lao (Lao PDR’s national clearance operator) by delivering training and providing monitoring and quality assurance.
  
  - NZ\$6 million contribution over six years (2020-2025) to the UNDP’s multi-donor funded ‘Clearing for Results: Mine Action for Human Development Project’ in Cambodia. In late 2023, a further grant of NZ\$5m was approved to support Cambodia’s aspiration to become mine-free by 2025, bringing the total contribution to NZ\$11m. A total of NZ\$8.4 million in grant payments had been made to the end of 2023.

- Support to humanitarian demining operations in Colombia since 2017 through a partnership with The HALO Trust. Contributions totalling NZ\$1.7 million have been made over a four-year period (2017-2021). The Phase 3 current grant (\$1.5m) covers a 28-month period between May 2022 and August 2024. We intend to extend this phase through to April 2026 with a further grant of \$1.5m.
- NZ\$830,000 (US\$515,000) contribution towards UNMAS' Iraq programme for 2024. (NZ\$830,000/US\$529,000 had been paid in December 2022 towards UNMAS' Iraq programme for 2023.)
- US\$449,676 towards UNMAS' activity: Capacity Enhancement of the Palestinian National Authority to Deliver Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in the West Bank for 2024. (US\$449,676 was also paid towards this activity in December 2022 for use in 2023.)
- NZ\$1.2 million contribution to UNDP's Mine Action Programme in Ukraine for de-mining and risk education. Mitigating the effects of mines and other explosive remnants of war is central to the "ecocide" pillar of Ukraine's Ten Point Peace Formula, for which Ukrainian President Zelenskyy sought New Zealand's support in his address to Parliament in December 2022.
- NZ\$10 million in humanitarian funding in response to the Israel-Hamas conflict in 2023, with our support delivered in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- NZ\$9.75 million contribution in humanitarian funding in 2023, with our support delivered in partnership with the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, the ICRC, The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the WFP, and New Zealand NGOs.
- \$7 million contribution to the humanitarian response in Ukraine and the regional refugee response in 2023, with our support delivered in partnership with the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund, ICRC, UNHCR and New Zealand NGOs.
- NZ\$16 million contribution to support humanitarian action in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and east African countries in 2023, with our support delivered in partnership with the WFP, the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund, the ICRC, UNHCR, and New Zealand NGOs.
- NZ\$2.75 million contribution to support humanitarian action in Nigeria, with our support delivered in partnership with ICRC.
- NZ\$11.59 million (US\$7 million) contribution to humanitarian and development responses in Afghanistan in 2023, delivered through WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA and FAO.
- NZ\$3.6 million contribution to support humanitarian action in Syria in 2023, with our support delivered in partnership with the IFRC and UNICEF.
- NZ\$1.5 million contribution to the ICRC's humanitarian response in Yemen in 2023.
- Flexible core funding to international humanitarian partner organisations, including NZ\$6 million to the WFP, NZ\$6 million to the UNHCR, NZ\$6 million to UN Population Fund, NZ\$6 million to UNICEF, NZ\$5 million to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

(UNOCHA), NZ\$3 million to UNOCHA's Central Emergency Response Fund, and NZ\$3.5 million to the ICRC.

- **Norway** reported contributing in 2023 a total of 544 586,490NOK (\$US 51, 735,717) to mine action activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Europe, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Lebanon, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Yemen, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Vietnam, West – Africa, Palestine, Myanmar, Nagorno Karabakh, as well as other Multilateral Programming. Norway reported that this support is provided through, Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas, Humanity and Inclusion, the HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group, GICHD, ICBL, ICRC, Norges Røde Kors, Norsk Folkehjelp, COPE, NPA, UNDP, UNOG and the Implementation Support Units of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
- **Slovakia** reported providing a financial contribution of 250.000 EUR to Projects Comprehensive Assistance Package for Ukraine including Demining Equipment. Slovakia further reported providing a financial contribution of 20'000 EUR to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action.
- **Sweden** reported that it contributed at least 124'017'383 SEK to mine action with most of this support channelled through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to Angola, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Senegal, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Sweden further noted global contribution to Geneva Call, the GICHD, the ICRC – weapons contamination unit, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, UNICEF, and UNMAS. Sweden further indicated that the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) has supported mine action activities through UNMAS, OSCE, UNOPS and UNDP. Sweden further reported:
  - long-term mine action support Ukraine with two EOD-officers and a medical coordinator deployed to UNOPS in Ukraine, in support of the UNDP Mine Action Programme.
  - a regional security specialist was deployed covering the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Colombia with the objective to improve the operational capacity in the UNMAS field programmes.
  - Support to UNMAS Ethiopia through an information management officer.
  - support through MSB to the UNMAS field programme with an information management officer and a senior operations officer.
  - support through MSB to OSCE with mine action expertise;
  - a Mine Action Project Officer in Montenegro.
  - support to the UNDP mine action programme in Yemen through MSB with an Information Management Specialist.
- **Switzerland** reported contributing in 2023 a total of CHF 35.3 million to support clearance, victim assistance, raise awareness about the risks posed by mines, cluster munition remnants and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) , strengthen local capacities, as well as promote the respect of international commitments such as the ones against the use of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Georgia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe as well as the activities of Geneva Call, ICBL-CMC, Mine Action Review and Mines Action Canada. Switzerland also reported a contribution of CHF 11.2 million to the GICHD. And the Convention's implementation support of the APMBC and to the CCM.



Switzerland further reported the provision of experts in the fields of EOD, logistics, finance and information management, training and security to UN mine action programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, South Sudan and Sudan as well as to UNMAS and UNOPS HQ in New York and UNOPS Global Information Management Team (IMAT). During the reporting period, CHF 3.1 million have been spent for the secondment of personnel, the organisation of training courses and different other activities.

- **The United Kingdom** reported contributing in 2023 a total of £16,223,766.13 to mine action activities in Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Loas, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. The United Kingdom reported that this included financial and in-kind support for training, clearance, training and advisory services, risk education training and implementation, EOD disposal, mechanical and rubble removal, stockpile destruction, counter IED training, survey and capacity building, victim support amongst other. The United Kingdom reported that this support is provided through, APOPO, DanChurch Aid, HALO Trust, Humanitarian Peace Support School, UNICEF, UNDP, Yemen Support Fund, Mines Advisory Group, UN Voluntary Trust Fund, 3 Fields Foundation. The UK indicated that its “mine action” programmes collectively cover the clearance of cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive remnants of war, alongside risk education and other activities and that it is not possible to separate out funds spent relating to anti-personnel mines alone. The United Kingdom further reported that these projects take place through funds from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office under its Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP), and the UK Government’s Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF).

**Action #46** *States Parties in a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties.*

- **Belgium** reported contributing in 2023 to several humanitarian pooled funds out of which i.e. humanitarian mine action activities were financed including the Central Emergency and Response Fund, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund, Yemen Humanitarian Fund, Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, and the Palestine Humanitarian Fund. Belgium reported that contributions in 2023 to these specific funds was 39 million €.
- **Canada** reported that it actively participates in the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), to ensure the coordination of support for the effective implementation of the Convention.
- **Switzerland** reported that where possible, Switzerland regularly participates in the in-country coordination platforms and regularly participates in the works of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG)

**Action #47** *Continuously explore opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Cooperation of this kind may include making mutually supporting clearance commitments in border areas, sharing experience of integrating gender and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account into programming, and, in line with Article 6, exchanging equipment, material and scientific and technological information (or donating them after one State Party reaches completion) in order to promote the implementation of the Convention.*

- **Algeria** reported that as part of international cooperation and technical assistance, Algeria organized training in 2023 for several African countries in their mine action such as Mali, Niger, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Mauritania, State of Palestine and Tunisia. In addition, Algerian experts participated in regional meetings and exercises aimed at sharing experiences in the field of mine clearance.
- **Australia** reported that it participates in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA), which promotes practical cooperation and builds regional humanitarian mine action capacity. Australia reported that it has participated in all EWG meetings so far in the 2021-2024 cycle. Australia reported that in 2023, the Australian Department of Defence provided international students with various training and assistance relevant to this Convention. Australia reported that, during the reporting period, in the Republic of Korea, the Australian Defence Force worked with other nation-states supporting the comprehensive military agreement (CMA) through the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) to support de-mining activities in the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ).

Australia further reported on other cooperation efforts including:

- a. The Military Engineering Regimental Officer Basic Course at the Australian School of Military Engineering provided training to members of the New Zealand Defence Force, Papua New Guinea Defence Force, the Indonesian Defence Force, the Timor Leste Defence Force and the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.
- b. Enhancement of the capability of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces thorough a seconded Officer position at the Australian School of Military Engineering.
- c. Under the Malaysia-Australia Joint Defence Program, Australia supports the Malaysian Armed Forces to develop a sovereign Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) capability. This is achieved through a combination of individual training courses, collective training and immersion opportunities, including an EDD training element in some Rifle Company Butterworth rotations.
- d. In 2023, EDD training was provided in Australia to two members of the Malaysian Armed Forces and one member of the New Zealand Defence Force at the Australian School of Military Engineering.
- e. Under the Defence Cooperation Program with Solomon Islands, Australia supports the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel, including through an embedded ADF EOD advisor and operational funding. In August 2021 Australia and Solomon Islands agreed to enhance our EOD cooperation through a package of infrastructure, equipment and training. From June to October 2023, Australia delivered an armoured excavator and several tranches of equipment upgrades including bomb suits, and disposal and safety equipment. Defence has delivered two training courses with the RSIPF EOD team in June and July 2023 to United Nations International Mine Actions Standards (IMAS) accreditation level three and three plus respectively. To build regional capability, Defence will also support the RSIPF to deliver an IMAS level one accreditation course to PNG and Nauru. Australia leads the EOD roundtable in the Solomon Islands with the US and Japan to de-conflict and coordinate our EOD cooperation, in addition to working with new partners such as Germany, Republic of Korea, and France.

- f. Defence continues to engage with the Government of Vanuatu to identify the next opportunity to scope and conduct an Operation RENDER SAFE disposal activity in Port Vila Harbour, which had been scheduled to occur in 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19.
  - g. Defence successfully supported the Government of Nauru with Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) identification and disposal under Operation RENDER SAFE in 2023. In July 2023, following the unexpected discovery of an unexploded WWII bomb, the ADF responded to an urgent request from the Government of Nauru. The ADF worked with the Nauru Police Force to assess and safely dispose of the 500lb bomb. In August-September 2023, the ADF deployed with a specialist multinational contingent to Nauru to conduct survey and reconnaissance tasks to confirm the location and type of reported explosive remnants of war. This reconnaissance mission will inform planning for the safe disposal of the explosive remnants of war, currently planned for 2024.
  - h. Defence engaged with the Government of Tuvalu to conduct an Operation RENDER SAFE reconnaissance in Funafuti Lagoon and Nanumea in September 2022. Planned disposal of located EO was planned for October 23, but logistic issues with providing support for operations IVO Nanumea Lagoon delayed this task from being completed. Disposal has been re-scheduled and is now planned for Oct 2024.
- **Belgium** reported on other cooperation efforts including the following:
    - a. From 01 May 2022 until 30 April 2024, Belgium provides a pool of five EOD Operators in support of UNMAS. Through NATO DCB, Belgium contributes to the UNMAS TMAT (threat mitigation advisory team) EOD and C-IED.
    - b. The EOD operators provide ad-hoc support to the UNMAS, with train-the-trainer and mentoring missions. Belgium is the only troop contributing nation.
    - c. Belgian Defence donated and provided training and EOD equipment for Ukraine (State Emergency Services and National Police) with a total value of 2,6 million euro. This included 4 Water Abrasive Cutting Systems and three vehicles with CMD intervention kits and EOD suits.
    - d. Belgium has regularly organised EOD courses in French and English to train team leaders of other countries. Currently, these courses are organised on an ad hoc basis.
    - e. On 30 November 2023, the Belgian Embassy in Bogota co-organized already for the 7th year in a row the 'Premio CaMINA' event together with the Embassy of Canada, Gran Tierra Energy (Canadian enterprise) and "Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas" (CCCM, local NGO part of the ICBL network). This to draw public attention to the work of associations of victims in the fight against antipersonnel mines.
    - f. Research and development activities are conducted both at the national and international level. A national example is the PARADIS project (a Prototype for Assisting Rational Activities in Humanitarian De-mining Using Images from Satellites) led by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) with the participation of the Department of Geography (IGEAT) of the Free University of Brussels (ULB). Different actors still use its results.

- g. Starting from October 2021 and lasting until September 2023, the Belgian company Space Applications Services N.V. and the Belgian Royal Military Academy are leading a research project, called AIDED, on the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the detection of explosive devices. AIDED will use a set of state of the art Artificial Intelligence algorithms able to identify unconventional (IEDs) and conventional (buried mines) explosive devices, and autonomously plan offline and run-time missions plans. It will also provide positioning, navigation and mapping to control a fleet of robots that cooperate quickly to identify a safe passage in a high-risk area. The AIDED project is financed by the European Commission and managed by the European Defence Agency in the framework of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research.
- **Brazil** reported that in the area of cooperation and assistance, the Brazilian Army maintained sixteen military personnel in support of the AICMA - CO (Integral Action Against Antipersonnel Mines - Colombia) program during 2023. The Inter-American Monitor Group (GMI) was composed of 4 military personnel (2 Brazilian Navy-Marines and 2 Army), the Inter-American Technical Advisory Group (GATI) was composed of 2 military personnel (1 Brazilian Navy-Marines and 1 Army) and the Mission of Instructors and Advisers on Humanitarian Demining (MIADH) was composed of 10 military personnel (4 Brazilian Navy-Marines and 6 Army).

Brazil further reported that Instructions on Mine Risk Education (MRE) were given at the Engineering Instruction Center, in Araguari, and at the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center, CCOPAB, to a total of approximately 40 (forty) military personnel from other countries.

- **Lithuania** reported that its Armed Forces EOD section representatives participated in the international IEDD exercise Northern Challenge 2023 in Iceland which focused on conducting various IEDD tasks. Lithuanian further reported that its Land Forces Engineer battalion EOD specialists conducted an EOD exercise as part of the international combat engineer exercise Engineer Thunder 2023 in Lithuania. Lithuanian further that its Land Forces training centre organized EOD awareness course for Ukrainian military personnel.
- **Serbia** reported that while it is not in a position to provide financial assistance, it is able to share experience and lessons learned from the on-going and completed operation as concern mine survey , clearance and training and that Serbia retains vast expertise in mine clearance, in particular regarding survey, project tasks developing, and quality control and governing of demining project tasks. Serbia also reported that at the invitation of the Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of North Macedonia, and through the SEEMMACC regional cooperation, representatives of SMAC visited the Directorate, in order to provide technical assistance and support in detection of aerial bombs by engaging SMA equipment and experts for the purpose of in depth scanning of terrain. Serbia reported that in May and December 2023, SMAC participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the South Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council. Serbia further reported that SMAC and UK based DRAGON Group have signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Cooperation and EOD Training and that in September 2023, they jointly organized the first EOD3 3+ training course including participants from Colombia, UK, France, Nepal, Serbia and South Sudan and included UNMAS, TDI, FSD and G4S.
- **Slovakia** reported information on international cooperation including joint international training of EOD specialist – MINIGATOR in CZE, international exercise ENGINNER SPIRIT in CZE, international training of EOD Specialists “St. Barbara’s Patrol” in Novaky, the allocation of expert personnel to support EOD training activities COE Trencin, a course for demining equipment operators BOZENA

for Ukrainian officers in the framework of EUMAM and the deployment of a member of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic as an EOD operator in the EUTM Mali operation completed in 2023.

- **Spain** reported that in March 2002, the International Demining Center (CID), financed by the Ministry of Defense was formally created, although international cooperation activities in this field date back to 1999. Located in the vicinity of Madrid, the CID was born with the aim of becoming an international benchmark in humanitarian demining.

Spain reported that the Center offers various teaching and research capacities, within the standards of the United Nations Organization (UN), as well as technical advice regarding demining and explosives deactivation (EOD). At the CID, continuous training and specialization courses are given to deminers from other countries, and theoretical and practical classes for the different national organizations that provide personnel to Peace Operations, before moving to areas mined or contaminated with explosive remnants of war.

Spain reported that during the period of 2023 the CID offered a course on Humanitarian Demining and Deactivation of Conventional Munitions EOD Level 3 for the Organization of American States (OAS) from January 11 to March 29, 2023 at the Army Academy of Engineers in Hoyo de Manzanares.

- **Switzerland** reported developing and updating specific training courses for future experts to be sent to international mine action programmes with its partners: The GICHD, UNMAS, UNICEF and UNOPS. Since 2000, Switzerland has been offering international training courses on Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) via the channels of the Partnership for Peace Program (PfP). Switzerland also annually offers a series of courses in different fields of mine action. During the reporting period, Switzerland along with the GICHD and UNOPS offered courses with the following topics: "IMSMA-Core Training Course", Operations Management, National Mine Action Standards, EORE, Integrated Mine Action Programmes and "Non-Technical Survey Course". During the reporting period, Switzerland spent some CHF 440'000 for the training courses.
- **Thailand** reported that it regularly engaging in a dialogue with Cambodia to follow up on cooperation in addressing areas on their common border. Thailand further reported efforts to strengthen cooperation in the regional framework of ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC including through contributing a total of 30,000 USD for the three budget years (2024-2026) to ARMAC. Thailand further reported on its participate in various workshops and meetings organized under the ASEAN framework.
- **Türkiye** reported sending eight military demining teams and 4 EOD teams to Azerbaijan in December 2020 to support the mine clearance activities conducted by Azerbaijan. Since the beginning of 2023, four military demining teams have been conducting mine clearance in Azerbaijan.

### **Action 3 Gender and Diversity**

- **Canada** reported that in line with Canada's feminist foreign policy, a gender lens is applied to all security-related programming (including project indicators and outcomes). Canada includes mine action related activities within its peacebuilding, development and human rights plans, where relevant.

- **The Netherlands** reports that it ensures that the different needs and perspectives of men and boys, women and girls, including mine survivors and affected communities are considered in the projects funded by The Netherlands and that Gender is a cross-cutting aspect of all humanitarian and development activities including mine action activities supported by the Netherlands.
- **Switzerland** reported that gender plays a prominent role in Switzerland's mine action strategy and it is mainstreamed in the projects it supports and that, in line with its Arms Control and Disarmament Strategy 2022-2025, Switzerland aims to strengthen the integration of mine action in peacebuilding, taking into account a gender perspective. In accordance with the Action Plan on Mine Action 2023-2026 Switzerland also promotes the consideration of diversity (such as gender, age and disability) in the implementation of this Action Plan and advocates for the equal participation of women in humanitarian mine action.