

**Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty**  
**26-30 November 2018**



Thank you Madam President.

In 2017, donors and affected states contributed more than **seven hundred and seventy-one** [771] million US dollars in international and national support for mine action, the highest combined total ever reported. This included increases in both national and international contributions.

National funding reached more than **ninety-eight** [98] million dollars. However, national support continues to be under-reported. Indeed, only **ten** [10] affected states provided information on their contributions to their own mine action program. We encourage all affected states to share information on their national expenditures in annual transparency reports or during our meeting this week.

International funding increased by almost **forty percent** [40%] compared with the previous year. **Thirty-seven** [37] donors contributed **six hundred and seventy-three** [673] million dollars, and this money was distributed to **forty-one** [41] recipient states and areas. This was the highest level of funding ever recorded (although if we use the figures adjusted for inflation, then it is in 2012 that the most funding was donated.) We call on the international community to sustain high levels of support over time, in order to achieve our collective goal of a mine-free world.

These are positive developments and a sign of the strong collaborative spirit and partnership that exist within this community. But in themselves they are not enough and we must go beyond the numbers and reflect on some questions.

Where does the money go? Is it sustainable and targeted? Is it fairly distributed? Is it efficient? Is it adequately addressing the needs on the ground?

Regarding recipients of international support, as in previous years, just a small number of countries received the majority of the funding. In 2017 the top five recipient countries received **sixty-five percent** [65%] of all funding, while the massive increases recorded were mostly directed toward two countries. It is understandable that states facing new use or high levels of contamination should receive appropriate levels of funding. It is also important to remember that every affected State Party has the right to request assistance. We encourage donors to structure assistance in such a way that all affected states receive the support they need to complete their obligations as quickly as possible.

On the question of efficiency, we draw your attention to the importance of understanding and assessing the **impact** of international assistance. Good data collection on results achieved and remaining tasks, and detailed and regular reporting on progress and needs, are key tools to measure the impact of cooperation and are critical to efficient programming.

In this respect, we commend the efforts of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for developing the individualized approach, which provides the

opportunity for affected states to engage with the donor community and with other partners, to present their needs and challenges and to discuss appropriate responses.

Madam President -- we are concerned that funding to victim assistance remains under **five percent** [5%] of all international support for the second consecutive year. This is particularly worrying, as most States Parties with significant numbers of victims suffer from a lack of adequate resources to fulfill the commitments of the Maputo Action Plan.

We also note that tracking money dedicated to victim assistance remains extremely difficult. We understand that many donors provide support for victims through broader frameworks on development, humanitarian aid, and disability. Nevertheless the shortfall in funding available to victim assistance and its visible impact on the lives of survivors and indirect victims demonstrates that this is not yet adequate to cover their needs. We urge states to ensure the provision of dedicated victim assistance funding until the other frameworks have the capacity to fully address the needs of victims.

Thank you.