

**Human Rights Council – 40th Regular session  
Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
Tuesday, 5th March 2019**

**International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC)  
Speaker: Loren Persi**

Thank you Mr President,

The ICBL's Landmine Monitor documented for the second consecutive year the most annual child casualties of mine and unexploded ordnance recorded in our 20 years of research.<sup>1</sup> Children make up almost half of all civilian casualties of these weapons.

In 2018 mines continued to cause numerous casualties in Afghanistan. The UN mission in Afghanistan reported for example, how a boy grazing cattle stepped on an improvised landmine, killing him and injuring two other boys.<sup>2</sup> In Ukraine, where the UN estimated 220,000 children are at risk from mines and UXO causing one casualty a week,<sup>3</sup> three boys playing in an empty house were killed by a landmine.<sup>4</sup> In one area of Yemen MSF provided emergency surgery to 150 survivors in late 2018, one-third were children.<sup>5</sup> These are just a few examples from conflict-affected States where landmines are banned, among some 40 countries where children are victims of these weapons.

Mr. President, landmines are causing grave violations, killing and maiming children in their everyday activities and during rare moments of play during armed conflict. Increased prevention and assistance efforts are needed, together with adherence to the ban.

Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> ICBL, *Landmine Monitor Report 2018*, November 2018, <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2018/landmine-monitor-2018/casualties.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> UNAMA, "Afghanistan Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: Special Report Increasing Harm to Afghan Civilians from the Deliberate and Indiscriminate Use of Improvised Explosive Devices," Kabul, October 2018, [https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/protection\\_of\\_civilians\\_in\\_armed\\_conflict\\_special\\_report\\_suicide\\_and\\_other\\_ied\\_devices\\_october\\_2018\\_-\\_english.pdf](https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/protection_of_civilians_in_armed_conflict_special_report_suicide_and_other_ied_devices_october_2018_-_english.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, "220,000 children threatened by mines and other explosive weapons in eastern Ukraine – UNICEF," [https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_102350.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_102350.html)

<sup>4</sup> "Landmine kills three boys playing in an 'abandoned house' in Ukraine," 30 September 2018, <https://news.sky.com/story/landmine-kills-three-boys-playing-in-an-abandoned-house-in-ukraine-11513763>.

<sup>5</sup> MSF, "Yemen: Trapped by landmines," 10 January 2019, <https://www.msf.org/trapped-mines-yemen?component=video-254566>.