The Mine Ban Treaty is a great example of the transformational potential of partnership. It has created an effective framework to restore human dignity and empower people to live full and productive lives, free from the fear of landmines.

At its core are the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility. Nothing better illustrates this than the US$10 billion provided in international support for mine action since the adoption of the treaty. This is remarkable and impressive, and yet, this is far from the trillions…the trillions… spent in military spending annually. This truly begs the question: why aren't we seeing more investments in mine action or human security?

The lack of resources remains one of the main factors preventing more progress in implementing the treaty. Victim assistance has reached its lowest level since 2016, while, clearance outputs remain concerningly slow.

Concretely, this hampers operations in affected communities, putting lives and livelihoods at great risk. For example, we are thinking of our colleagues from the Afghan Landmine Survivors Organization, who announced last week they will have to shut down activities due to lack of support. Unfortunately, this scenario is not unique and will continue to repeat itself in other countries.

If we don't act now, when?

How can we affect positive change if resources are not available nor fairly distributed? How can we be serious about leaving no one behind when 27 States Parties with significant numbers of survivors have not received new victim assistance funding in the past year? How can we pretend to reach a mine free world if year after year a handful of contaminated states do not receive adequate funding to conduct clearance operations?

If we don't act now, when?

We understand the ever-growing pressure on humanitarian assistance budgets, and as a result, on resources available for clearance, risk education, and victim assistance. This reality calls for collective action to scale up mine action support, in order to reach a wider range of countries with different levels of contamination and needs.

If we don't act now, when?

Here are three areas that could help streamlining cooperation and assistance, if seriously considered and implemented.

1. **Greater coordination among donors.** This includes direct engagement and close follow-up between donors and affected states in need of support, as well as implementing partners. This will ensure effective mine action plans receive support and that all affected countries benefit from adequate levels of funding.
2. **Addressing gaps in national capacities and fostering strong national ownership** to ensure sustainable assistance in mine action, anchored within local contexts.
3. **Expanding synergies with other sectors** such as development, human and disability rights, children's rights, peace building, the environment, and integrating mine action in Sustainable Development Goal frameworks. This will ensure a more effective and resilient mine action assistance, addressing both emergency needs and long-term development. Breaking silos is critical to make the most of available resources.

While we can import some new models to bolster mine action assistance, there is no need to reinvent the wheel. We need to be careful in measuring the added value of *innovative funding* in the long run, and to avoid developing potentially short-sighted and heavily bureaucratic models. We know what works and we already have the tools. What we need are the partnerships and global commitment to bring about sustained change. This entails increased and long-term support from international donors.

Twenty-five years ago, the international community was visionary in seeking to achieve a mine free world. Now, is the time to put human security back on center stage and ensure we have the means to live up to the promises of the treaty.

If not now, when?

Thank you.