



## Convention on Cluster Munitions Second Review Conference (Part 1)

November 2020

### Statement on Survey & Clearance

#### Check Against Delivery

Thank you Mr President

I want to start by congratulating you on the progress made during the course of the year, and for having adapted the RevCon format in the face of COVID challenges. We welcome the way the proceedings enable full and meaningful remote participation by States Parties and NGOs.

As we said at last week's Meeting of States Parties of the AP Mine Ban Convention, let's not look forward to going 'back to normal'. Instead, let's make sure normal is more inclusive. More diverse. And more accessible.

We also congratulate Croatia and Montenegro on their completion of survey and clearance.

Mr President,

This year's edition of *Clearing the Cluster Munition Remnants* shows significant progress and a great deal to celebrate. 2019 saw more than 130km<sup>2</sup> cleared globally, bringing the total to 766km<sup>2</sup> since the Convention entered into force a decade ago. Of the ten affected States Parties, only Lao PDR is massively contaminated. While heavy contamination exists in Iraq, the extent of contamination in other affected States Parties is medium or light.

This means that the next five years should see completion of survey and clearance in nearly all States Parties with Article 4 obligations. We call on States Parties to pick up the pace and apply the Mine Action Review's recommendations.

With that in mind, we see significant value in reinstating the intersessional meetings for the next Review cycle of this Convention. This could play an important role in driving forward the implementation of national plans and reinforcing cooperation and assistance.

During the course of this year, HALO – working closely with the Mine Action Review – has contributed to the development of the Lausanne Action Plan. We are grateful to you for having considered our proposals and taken the majority of them on board. We believe the plan you have produced provides a solid framework to make deliverable progress during the next five years.

HALO has played an active role in the Gender Working group and we align ourselves with its recommendations. We also strongly support the inclusion of environment in the Action Plan.

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates,

In closing, I want to repeat the tribute we paid last week to my HALO colleagues across the world who have continued their work during this exceptionally challenging year.

They have they continued survey, clearance, risk education and support to victim assistance. But they have also laid down their demining PPE for medical PPE to support COVID response. They have delivered medical supplies. They have adapted ambulances so they can transport COVID patients to hospitals when no one else could. And they have self-isolated and supported each other.

Over 8,000 of my colleagues across five continents have kept going. Without our mine action colleagues across the world – from all organisations – we would have little to celebrate here.

I thank you.

**ENDS**