



UK Mission
Geneva

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE**

**AGENDA ITEM 8(E) COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM**

H.E Ambassador Liddle
Geneva, 26 November 2020

Mr President,

Over the ten years that our Convention has been in force, the UK has consistently been one of the world's leading donors in providing cooperation and assistance in the area of action on land mines and cluster munitions. We assist States to deliver the objectives of the Convention by supporting the clearance and destruction of unexploded cluster munitions, the delivery of risk education, and provision of capacity development for national and provincial authorities.

Under the UK's current Global Mine Action Programme, since 2018, over 206 million square meters of land have been cleared and confirmed safe, and 2.2 million people have received risk education. This includes clearance of cluster munitions in Laos, Vietnam, Lebanon and South Sudan.

I am pleased to announce that this year the UK is investing a further £36m in our Global Mine Action Programme, up to March 2021. This funding allows our partners to continue their lifesaving work in fourteen countries heavily affected by both landmines and cluster munitions. We are currently considering funding options beyond March.

As well as continuing to invest directly through our Global Mine Action Programme, the UK is taking further steps to strengthen our collective work to achieve the goals of the Convention. We support efforts to establish innovative sources of funding to supplement investment from traditional donors. This should include consideration of social impact bonds, variations of public-private partnerships and blended finance, and corporate social responsibility support.

The UK will be funding research to investigate and provide recommendations on these and other innovative financing options. We look forward to sharing the findings of this research when it is complete.

We are also exploring opportunities, including through the Mine Action Support Group, to align donor approaches to measuring the impact of mine action. This will enrich the evidence base underpinning our work, helping us to design more effective programmes that better support those most at risk from landmines and cluster munitions.

The UK is proud to offer substantial assistance to support the Convention's goals. We encourage all States Parties to work together to tackle the scourge of cluster munitions.

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