

Thank you, Mr. President,

One of the greatest strengths of the convention, is the established long-term partnership between affected states and the donor community. It relies on the principle that states in a position to do so should not let affected states pay the price of the use of weapons they are not responsible for.

The updates being reported this week by states and organizations are all clear examples demonstrating the possibilities for positive change when resources are available.

But, it is also apparent that the sustainability of mine action assistance is extremely precarious. The lack of resources remains one of the main factors preventing more progress. Much more needs to be done to maintain, diversify, and expand such support. Year after year, we see the same pattern of the same group of international donors being the main source of mine action funding, of the same group of recipients receiving most the funding. Year after year, most of that funding is going toward clearance activities in states with massive or new contamination.

Are we really understanding the risks of not investing more in mine action?

Are we really understanding the costs in terms of lost lives, lost livelihoods, and lost opportunities to achieve sustainable development?

We know that in the past two years, mine action assistance has been seriously challenged. The systemic shocks from COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, the global economic slowdown, and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine have increased humanitarian needs and pressure on resources available. In brief, more countries are facing persistent and interconnected crisis, for longer.

This context calls for more flexibility and coordination among mine action donors and strengthened national capacities. This is essential to ensure all affected countries receive adequate support to fully implement the convention. We already have the tools, now we need to fully activate them.

- 1- States requesting assistance must elaborate clear mine action plans, based on existing national capacity and inclusive of perspectives of affected communities and diverse groups. Next, they must provide regular and up to date information on progress and challenges. Article 7 transparency reports are a very easy tool to do so.

- 2- Donors and service providers must improve their reporting of assistance provided, disaggregated by sector, to have a clear understanding of resources available, existing gaps, and inform how these can be filled.
- 3- All parties involved must strengthen systematic and regular interaction to guarantee assistance is efficient. Platforms such as this week's meeting or country coalitions offer the most effective environment for such discussions.

Regarding innovative financing for mine action, the CMC considers this could help enhance resource flows in some specific contexts, with clear parameters involving and protecting the rights of local communities. However, such mechanisms must be considered as additional sources of assistance rather than substitutes for states' traditional funding.

Mine action assistance works, but only if donors have the discipline and commitment to stick with it. When the international community is showing up, we see results on the ground: in the number of lives saved, in the extent of land cleared, and in the availability of services to the victim. Now is the time to step up for an effective and accountable international cooperation and assistance.