

Thank you, Madam President.

Norway would like to extend its gratitude to the coordinators, Switzerland and Lebanon, for their efforts over the last year.

In our new humanitarian strategy, covering the period from 2025 to 2029, which was launched this year, Norway reiterates its continued commitment to support efforts to combat the use of weapons and methods of warfare that have a particularly harmful effects on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Cluster munitions are examples of such weapons.

Norway has a long history of supporting mine action efforts in many countries. Currently we are supporting clearance activities, capacity building, victim assistance and explosive ordnance risk education in over 20 states. This also includes support for universalization and promotion of the Convention. Once again, we would like to highlight the added value of Country Coalitions as the best way to exchange best practices and build national capacities. These coalitions have proven to be very effective in accelerating survey and clearance and ensuring a holistic approach to mine action.

Norway prides itself on being a predictable and flexible donor. Over the last years we have strengthened our cooperation with partners through more strategic and multi-annual agreements with flexible funding modalities.

The extensive use of cluster munitions in Ukraine due to Russia's brutal war of aggression, and the subsequent contamination it creates, will take decades to clear and require significant funding for a long time to come. Last year Norway provided approximately 20 million USD to mine action in Ukraine. This situation has not affected the level of support to other countries, and we are glad to be in a position to be able to uphold our funding to mine action at the same level as previous years.

We would like to remind everyone, that in addition to the crucial work to support the most heavily contaminated states, we also have to ensure that states with limited contamination, and close to the finishing line, have access to international cooperation and assistance. We would encourage all donors to find better ways to coordinate efforts and identify opportunities and gaps so that no one is left behind.

I thank you, Madam president.