

## Statement by Norway

### Agenda item 10c – Clearance and Risk Education

Madam President,

Clearing the world of cluster munition remnants remains one of the Convention's main goals. As such, conducting survey and clearance is still the most effective way to save lives. Last year, Bosnia & Herzegovina became the eighth state party to meet their obligations under Article 4, marking yet another milestone for the Convention. This achievement serves as an example of the importance of donor predictability, political will and cooperation between mine action authorities and international operators. We are hopeful that many more states parties will reach the finishing line in the years to come.

-The latest report by Mine Action Review provides some welcoming news. It shows that global clearance continued to expand year-on-year. A record high of 185 square kilometers was cleared in 2023, representing an 8 percent increase compared to 2022. It is particularly encouraging to note that Lao PDR – the most heavily contaminated State Party – increased their clearance output in 2023. We also welcome Chile's decision to start clearance activities at its military training ranges last year.

However, we do note with concern that several affected States Parties saw a drop in clearance output in 2023. In some cases, lack of progress boils down to limited or no funding, and difficulties in accessing and carrying out surveys in certain regions. A case in point was Chad's presentation yesterday of its extension request. As States Parties we all share a responsibility to contribute to the accomplishment of the objectives set out in the Convention. Norway will continue to call for the improvement of donor coordination and encourage the creation of Country Coalitions, which have proven to be effective because they engage all relevant stakeholders at national level. As donors we should assess how global funding is distributed to ensure that **all** affected states can benefit from international assistance. The active participation of operators, civil society and mine action authorities is crucial in this regard.

Madam President,

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is an important preventive measure and should be integrated and standardized in all mine action activities. Despite its importance, it has received limited attention for years. As coordinators of Article 4, Norway and Italy, have submitted a working paper to the MSP aimed

at highlighting the evolution of EORE and the central role it plays in protecting civilians. The paper displays how the implementation of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education has been professionalized and become more innovative. Furthermore, it presents a set of recommendations on how we can adopt practical steps to give EORE higher priority in our work, including appointing a dedicated coordinator for Risk Education within the CCM Coordination Committee, and separating Risk Education from Clearance in the agenda of formal meetings. In closing we would encourage all States Parties to study the paper and consider the recommendations put forward.

I thank you.