

## Item 3j iii): Significant budget cuts impacting on the implementation of operative actions under the CCM, including victim assistance, stockpile destruction and clearance under International Cooperation and Assistance

### United Kingdom Intervention

Thank you, Mr. President. Thanks too to MAG and NPA for offering their insights and experience on this issue.

As we said yesterday, the Convention continues to play an important role in the facilitation and encouragement of cooperation and assistance. The support provided over the past 15 years of the Convention has helped many states to reduce risks to civilians and to fulfil their commitments.

As such, we recognise the concern about less funding likely being made available in this space in the coming years, and the challenges this may create for states to fulfil their obligations and to protect civilians. Even before this, we know there has been unmet demand, and a need to look for new sources of finance to improve the provision of cooperation and assistance.

As we announced yesterday, the UK remains committed to supporting mine action and we have extended contracts and agreements under our GMAP3 programme for another year.

Nonetheless, over the short to medium-term, we should not expect a return to previous levels of funding globally. We can't ignore the challenges that will be created by this, but we should also look for opportunities. We need to make what funding is available go further, including looking for greater efficiencies in how this funding is deployed.

And we should also look to new approaches: the UK continues to support projects exploring the utility of innovative finance mechanisms as a means of funding mine clearance, including our development impact bond project in Cambodia, working with APOPO and agricultural organisation Cordaid; a mine action and livelihoods project in Syria, in partnership with Danish Church Aid; and funding a UNDP feasibility study on innovative finance in Ukraine.

The UK is also exploring the potential of a front-loading facility for the sector to provide more and more regular funding, adapting the successful International Finance Facility for Immunisation model.

The UK will use our role as chair of the Mine Action Support Group to socialise and advocate for innovative finance mechanisms over the next two years.

These kinds of initiatives are underscored by Action 38 of the Lausanne Action Plan and Action 40 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan. We would encourage all states to explore accelerating innovative finance and other alternative approaches to funding given the current challenging financial climate. These mechanisms have the potential to provide new and sustainable pathways to supporting long-term mine action around the world.