

Item 3e: International Cooperation and Assistance

United Kingdom Intervention:

Thank you, Mr. President. The UK would like to add our congratulations to you on your election as President, and we look forward to working with you constructively over the coming months. Let me also express our thanks to Netherlands and Switzerland for their work as coordinators.

The Convention continues to play an important role in the facilitation and encouragement of cooperation and assistance to support the removal of cluster munitions and their remnants. The UK remains firmly committed to the humanitarian goals of the Convention and to supporting its implementation through programmatic work.

The UK's Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP) incorporates the funding of cluster munition remnant clearance and associated activity. GMAP's third iteration, GMAP3, has been active since April 2022 and originally set out to run until March 2025. Between its inception and December 2024, the programme has cleared, confirmed safe and released over 28.8 million square metres of land and delivered risk education messages to over 725,000 people living in mine-affected communities.

GMAP3's impact on the removal of cluster munitions, through the UK's delivery partners including the Mines Advisory Group, HALO Trust and APOPO, has positively benefited many lives across the globe. Of note, over 5,500 cluster munitions were destroyed between April 2022 and December 2024; the majority of these were found in Laos and South Sudan, with additional clearances occurring in Cambodia, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we can announce that we have extended GMAP3 contracts and agreements to run for a further year to 31 March 2026. This allows us to continue to support operations in 10 countries, including countries affected by contamination from cluster munitions.

At a time of challenging fiscal headwinds for all States, the UK is proud to be able to continue our support towards our shared goal of addressing the humanitarian consequences and unacceptable harm to civilians caused by cluster munitions.