
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by Ambassador Tobias Privitelli, GICHD Director International Cooperation and Assistance

13th Meeting of States Parties of CCM, Geneva, 16-19 September 2025

Mr President,

I would like to thank you, the ISU Director and your respective teams for effectively steering our work and cooperation in the past year. The GICHD greatly values its long-standing cooperation with this Convention and the ISU and remains committed to supporting its work.

International cooperation and assistance are a key component of CCM implementation. They are especially important today, as we face growing needs, shrinking financial resources and significant political pressure on the hard-won norms of this Convention.

To be fully effective, international support must go hand in hand with strong national ownership, and be guided by the vision and commitment of affected States. For this reason, the GICHD has consistently supported Country Coalition platforms as one effective way to mobilize resources and capacities under the leadership and coordination of affected States. We regret that this mechanism has been underutilized within the Convention so far and welcome that four States with outstanding article 4 obligations have expressed an interest in establishing such coalitions. More generally, we encourage all relevant States Parties to make full use of this mechanism.

The GICHD remains committed to advancing international cooperation through the provision of technical advice and assistance to requesting States, always striving to tailor support to their specific context and needs. Our interventions often begin with an assessment of existing capacities as a basis for the ensuing technical support. These assessments are always conducted in close cooperation with national authorities. For example, in 2025, the Centre conducted baseline assessments of information management systems in Afghanistan and Lao PDR.

Mr President,

Establishing and promoting regional frameworks to share knowledge and experience remains one of the key objectives of the GICHD's three Regional Cooperation Programmes. Targeting

Arab- and French-speaking countries, as well as States from Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia, these programmes provide platforms to disseminate latest standards and methodologies and for national actors to exchange technical expertise and national experiences.

In May 2025, under its Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme, the GICHD organized a regional training course in Benin focusing on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) for Project Managers, together with the Center for Humanitarian Demining Training. Gathering representatives of mine action authorities and operators from eight States in the Sahel, the course focused on EORE concepts and practices within the framework of CCM obligations.

Next week, through its Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia Regional Cooperation Programme, the GICHD will host a workshop on International Obligations in Mine Action. While most states from the region are affected by explosive ordnance, their membership in the CCM and other disarmament Conventions varies. The workshop will aim to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the international obligations that are relevant to mine action as derived from the CCM, APMBC, CCW as well as from International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law. It is our hope that this workshop will also encourage stronger regional engagement with relevant international instruments.

Mr President,

The GICHD welcomes information on international assistance received by some States Parties to fulfil their CCM obligations. At the same time, we remain concerned that limited financial resources continue to hinder progress and that some affected States continue to struggle to attract assistance for different reasons, including donor prioritization. As the MSP Progress report notes, “This imbalance risks widening implementation gaps and leaving certain regions or thematic areas underfunded.”

The Lausanne Action Plan provided a solid framework to strengthen cooperation and assistance. Yet, current practices often prioritise emergencies over legacy contamination, and clearance over risk education and victim assistance. Supporting CCM implementation is not only a legal obligation under the Convention; it is also a concrete expression of solidarity and of our shared commitment to protect civilians during and after conflict.

Let us keep this spirit at the centre of our work.

Thank you.