



**Convention on Cluster Munitions
13th Meeting of States Parties
September 2025**

**Statement by The HALO Trust
International Cooperation and Assistance**

Thank you, President.

International cooperation and assistance lies at the heart of our collective endeavour.

The achievements of this Convention, measured not only in land released but also in lives protected and futures rebuilt, have only been possible through strong partnerships between national authorities, donors, and implementing organisations.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the clearance of cluster munition strike areas, where international support has been critical to sustaining the momentum of battle area clearance.

Kosovo offers a powerful example.

With approximately six million square metres of contamination remaining, most of it in cluster munition strike areas, clearance is now at a critical stage.

The launch of the 2025–2030 National Mine Action Strategy provides a clear roadmap.

Once high- and medium-priority Battle Area Clearance tasks are completed, including the removal of BL755 submunitions which pose the greatest remaining threat, the residual risk can be safely managed.

This would bring Kosovo close to cluster munition- and mine-impact free status in a relatively short period of time.

A success that would strengthen this Convention.

Since 1999, HALO, working alongside the Kosovo Mine Action Centre, NPA, and the Kosovo Security Force, has reached more than 250,000 people through clearance and risk education.

In 2025 alone, clearance teams have already destroyed dozens of cluster munitions and other explosive items, protecting families and enabling communities to use their land safely and productively. This progress reflects the value of long-term international support and the importance of aligning resources with nationally defined strategies.

Sustaining this momentum is essential.

With targeted investment over the next two years, Kosovo can complete priority clearance and responsibly transition to residual risk management. This would safeguard communities and serve as a model of how international cooperation, aligned with local leadership, achieves lasting success.

President, international cooperation and assistance remain fundamental to the Convention's success.

Kosovo demonstrates what can be achieved when donors, national authorities, and operators work together with shared purpose.

To see such progress through to completion, in Kosovo and elsewhere, we must continue to combine political will, funding, and technical expertise.

I thank you.