

MAG Statement - International Cooperation and Assistance

President, excellencies, colleagues,

Responding to today's emergency must not mean abandoning yesterdays.

Nine of the ten States Parties with clearance obligations have identified a need for international assistance.

In 2025, approximately 116 million US dollars in national and international funding addressed cluster munition contamination in States Parties. Around 74 million dollars in international assistance went to just four affected States Parties. Meanwhile, countries such as Chad and Mauritania faced gaps threatening progress towards their deadlines. Severe cuts have drastically reduced clearance capacity in South Sudan.

This is not an argument for taking resources away from urgent crises. It is an argument against forcing a choice between them.

International cooperation must respond to new emergencies, sustain legacy programmes and help States approaching completion cross the finish line.

The wider mine-action picture exposes a structural weakness. In 2024, just two donors provided almost 40 per cent of all international mine-action funding. When support is this concentrated, decisions taken in two capitals can determine whether operations continue across dozens of countries.

MAG sees what happens when support stops abruptly. Trained teams disperse. Equipment becomes idle. Information is lost. Community access weakens. National partners lose capacity.

Restarting later costs more. Progress is delayed. Communities remain exposed.

National ownership is essential. But ownership means national leadership—not national isolation. Affected States must set priorities, build institutions and commit national resources. States in a position to assist must provide the sustained partnership that makes delivery possible. When some of the world's most contaminated countries remain outside the Convention, we must recognise that confidence in that partnership is the foundation for universalisation.

The Political Declaration and Vientiane Action Plan call for predictable, sustainable and needs-based assistance. Multi-year funding protects teams, knowledge and partnerships. Flexible funding allows programmes to adapt when access changes, new contamination is found or people move. Targeted funding can close modest gaps before they become years of delay and further extensions.

Support must follow evidence, need and support must leave stronger national systems behind.

Thank you.