



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Fourth Review Conference, Oslo 2019

Renewing Political Commitment to the Convention

Statement by The HALO Trust (Delivered by Camille Wallen)

Mr President,

On behalf of The HALO Trust I would like to commend Norway and your team for the way in which you've included civil society in this Review Conference and sought experience and views that challenge this convention to advance over the next five years.

We fully support the Oslo Action Plan and are committed to achieving our common goal of a mine free world. We believe that so much more can be achieved by 2025, but we need to move faster.

The Oslo Action Plan sets out a strong direction to achieve this, defining the essential elements to achieve a mine free 2025. The Oslo Action Plan is an opportunity not to be missed. But its success will depend on strong national ownership, evidence-based national strategies and work plans, and planning for the sustainable assistance of the enduring needs of victims even after clearance is complete.

A challenge that faces us in implementing this action plan is funding. In this we must be bold and innovative. We must not be afraid to try something new and learn from others. This is a joint effort and it rests with all of us here this week to continue to make ourselves relevant.

We also welcome the increased emphasis on integration and mainstreaming of gender in the action plan, which will be key to ensure mine action meets the needs of those affected. The next step is diversity.

In the spirit of partnership and coordination, HALO stands ready to support states to deliver the Oslo Action Plan and achieve completion. But let us not forget that our mission is humanitarian and we exist to support the 60 million people still affected by mines.

Distinguished delegates. Friends.

This Convention exists because people were willing to think differently. To do things differently. To challenge ourselves and the *status quo* in the name of humanity. And to be bold enough to do what was needed, even when it seemed impossible to achieve.

Let's celebrate what we have achieved and recommit to a landmine free 2025. But let's not be complacent. Let's leave Oslo focussing not on what we did today, but what we will do tomorrow. What we will do more of. What we will do better. And what we will do differently, even when that feels uncomfortable.

And let's not be afraid to be bold. That is – after all – what got us here in the first place.

I thank you.

ENDS