

Fourth Review of the Mine Ban Convention

Agenda item 6: Renewing the political commitment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Statement by Norway, Friday 29 November 2019

Director-General Ms Merete Brattested

Mr President,

Norway has been a consistent partner in global mine action for more than 25 years and a staunch supporter of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention since it was adopted here in Oslo 22 years ago.

When we took over the presidency of this Convention last year, we pledged to bring new energy into the implementation of the Convention, and to use our presidency to bring renewed political attention to all aspects of the Mine Ban Convention. This Conference, the documents we will adopt later today, together with the statements of all of us, are testament to our joint political commitment to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines.

We believe the Oslo Action Plan will be an important tool to help us effectively implement the Convention in the next five years. You can expect Norway to make every effort to put the Action Plan into practice from the very start. Throughout this year we have actively engaged new stakeholders from the wider humanitarian protection community in the work of the Convention. We will continue to promote such links, in line with the Oslo Action Plan. This is an important way to strengthen this Convention and to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

Norway is honoured to be serving on the Committee on Article 5 implementation, for the coming two years. As a member of the Committee, we will continue to push for evidence-based and inclusive national mine action plans as a tool for making progress in clearance. We also intend to use our membership of the Committee to ensure that mine risk education receives the attention it needs, and that gender is mainstreamed into all clearance and risk education work. As one of the largest donors to mine action, we will work with our partners to maintain the momentum we believe is now reflected in the Oslo Action Plan.

Experience shows that in-country based dialogues between national authorities, operators and donors can significantly improve progress towards a country's completion of its obligations. The combination of strong national ownership and cooperation and assistance is a powerful model. We will continue to push for the establishment of national platforms for dialogue and participate ourselves where we can. Norway will also continue to provide significant financial contributions to global mine action. In 2019 we are funding mine action in 20 countries and areas with a total financial contribution of approximately 40 million US dollars, including for victim assistance.

Those affected by anti-personnel mines must always remain at the centre of our efforts. As part of Norway's work to implement the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no-one behind, we have stepped up our efforts for vulnerable and marginalized groups. From the development budget, we will over the next four years provide 50 million US dollars in support of persons with disabilities through national and international organizations, including by strengthening local civil society.

It has been a true pleasure to see the renewed attention the Mine Ban Convention has received over the past year. We are convinced that we are on the right track. The Mine Ban Convention is a key protection instrument, and Norway will do its part to keep promoting its norm and support implementation over the next five years. Thank you.