



**Statement under Agenda Item 6: Renewing the political
commitment to the Convention**

by

Mr. Alexandre Zouev

Assistant Secretary-General

Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions

United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Fourth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the
Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and
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Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions
Department of Peace Operations

Mr. President¹,

On behalf of the **United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action**², it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your election and to thank you for your remarkable leadership in the lead-up to the Review Conference.

Since the Convention came into force, we have come a long way in reaching the goal of a mine-free world: 52 million antipersonnel mines have been destroyed,

¹ H.E. Hans Brattskar, Ambassador of Norway to the UN in Geneva.

² The United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



31 States Parties have completed their mine clearance obligations and a strong norm against anti-personnel mines has been established. Despite these achievements, much remains to be done and many States still face contamination.

It is therefore crucial that States Parties adopt and implement the Oslo Action Plan. I wish to highlight three areas in which the United Nations, according to its current Mine Action Strategy (2019-2023), will support States Parties in fulfilling their commitments:

First, the main objective of the Strategy is to strengthen the **protection** of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance, thereby promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This year, the United Nations has supported States Parties to protect millions of girls, women, boys and men, including displaced populations, from the threat of explosive ordnance by supporting clearance, risk education and victim assistance activities as well as managing the destruction of stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

Second, the United Nations **supports national institutions** in 35 countries to lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities by providing technical and capacity development advice. From 2013 to 2018, eight new programmes were



established in Iraq, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Vietnam and Yemen. In these and other States, the United Nations supports the elaboration of national mine action standards that are consistent with international standards, assists in the development of Mine Action Coordination Centres or supports the transition to national ownership and sustainability after capacity development support has drawn to a close.

Third, it is essential that mine action actors apply a gender lens to ensure protection for all. Like the Oslo Action Plan, the Strategy considers **gender inclusion and diversity** as a key priority in the planning and implementation of mine action programmes. Together with the Gender in Mine Action Programme, the United Nations has updated its Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes to incorporate the latest best practices and lessons learnt. I take this opportunity to thank affected states, donor countries, civil society and UN colleagues who have contributed to the development of the new guidelines. It is hoped that they will help the mine action sector to promote gender equality and women empowerment.

Excellencies,



Mine action lies at the core of the peace and security, humanitarian and development nexus. As stated in the Draft Oslo Declaration:

“through the realisation of the Convention’s aims, States Parties are saving lives, protecting people, assisting victims and enabling sustainable development in affected areas”.

The United Nations will continue to leverage its comparative advantages to support States Parties in these endeavours.

Thank you.