

Thank you, Mr President.

The Fourth Review conference both marks twenty years since entry into force of the phenomenally successful Mine Ban Treaty and sets the agenda for the next five years.

Release of mined areas enables development, frees communities from fear, and crucially prevents the further loss of lives and limbs. Since entry into force in 1999, mined areas totalling at least 2,880km<sup>2</sup> have been cleared worldwide, equating to an area greater than the size of Nairobi, New York City, and Rome combined; with more than 4.6 million antipersonnel mines destroyed. In 2018 alone, 155km<sup>2</sup> was cleared globally – over 96% in States Parties – with more than 153,800 emplaced antipersonnel mines destroyed.

It is important to celebrate the significant progress made in survey and clearance, including once massively contaminated States Parties such as Algeria and Mozambique having fulfilled their Article 5 obligations since the last Review Conference. A total of 32 States Parties have declared themselves mine-free in the past two decades.

But it is even more important to look ahead, setting clear goals for Article 5 implementation over the next five years and putting in place mechanisms to ensure these are met and also measured along the way. The Oslo Action Plan provides an excellent tool in this respect, with concrete action points and associated indicators for all key components of survey and clearance, including establishing accurate baselines of contamination, solid national work plans, strong national standards in line with IMAS, and good information management systems and outputs. The Oslo Action Plan is also strong on issues such as gender and diversity, ensuring that while completion is a fundamental measure of success, *how* States Parties get there also matters.

What is agreed in Oslo this week must be translated into committed progress on the ground in *all* affected States Parties. This includes addressing both legacy contamination and new contamination resulting from the use of antipersonnel mines of an improvised nature by non-state armed groups, which also falls under the Treaty, as detailed in *Landmine Monitor Report 2019*.

ICBL commends those States Parties such as Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe, which are rising to the challenge and putting in place the necessary building blocks to finish clearance as soon as possible and before 2025. However, for those States Parties where there is continued inaction in Article 5 implementation, it should be addressed as a compliance issue.

The time is long overdue for genuine planning and commitment towards achieving completion as soon as possible in every affected State Party. This requires political will, strong national ownership, and requisite multi-year support from the international community. The completion process can be greatly enhanced by the establishment of regular in-country platforms that bring together all relevant stakeholders around the same table to discuss Article 5 implementation, improve coordination, enhance efficiency in land release, and identify and overcome stumbling blocks. It also requires honest reflection and collectively challenging ourselves to do better; as national authorities, clearance operations, and donors. Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines 2019* country reports can serve as a good tool for discussion to facilitate such dialogue.

We owe it to the women, men, girls, and boys living in affected communities to make the completion goal of 2025 a reality and not just rhetoric. Let's finish the job!