



**Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on
their Destruction**

25-29 November 2019

Oslo, Norway

Statement by Ireland on Cooperation and Assistance

President,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for their efforts and for undertaking a review of the Individualised Approach over the last year.

Ireland welcomes the findings of the Committee's work and in particular the proposal for a National Mine Action Platform as a way to strengthen the Individualised Approach to cooperation and assistance. We consider it crucial to tailor assistance to the unique needs of the receiving State and to work with those States to ensure assistance is as effective as it can be. Strong national ownership and international cooperation and assistance are essential for the continued success of the Convention.

We welcome the Actions on international cooperation and assistance in the Oslo Action Plan and fully support the commitment in the political declaration for States to strive to strengthen partnerships and increase resources, assistance and national and international funding.

President,

International cooperation and assistance is a core component of the necessary efforts to achieve the aim of a world free of anti-personnel mines by 2025. The presence of landmines, including anti-personnel mines, constitutes a threat to human security and a serious impediment to development and rehabilitation in post-conflict societies. Moreover, as increasingly witnessed by a variety of actors, landmines pose an often insurmountable obstacle to humanitarian operations, denying access to populations in need.

Ireland maintains its long-standing to humanitarian mine action, having provided over €45 million in funding for humanitarian demining since 2006. This funding has contributed to projects in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Columbia, Iraq, Jordan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

President,

The removal of landmines prevents casualties, creates a pathway for humanitarian assistance and frees communities from fear. It also paves the way for these communities to develop their land and create agricultural and economic opportunities. Thus, humanitarian demining forms a key part of our efforts in achieving the goals set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all our humanitarian mine action work is an important aim for Ireland. We are pleased to have continued our support for programmes which promote gender diversity in the work of the Convention and other disarmament instruments. We also recently provided funding to Mines Action Canada's Mine Action Fellows program, which supports capacity building for young women interested in demining activities related to landmines, cluster munitions and other indiscriminate weapons, in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries.

Ireland has continued to support the work of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit since the Third Review Conference, providing over €65, 000 to its functioning since 2014. The ISU play a vital role supporting the implementation and universalisation of the Convention and we hope to see a large number of states continue to support the ISU in the forthcoming Review period.

Thank you