

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION: 4TH REVIEW CONFERENCE
UK Statement under Agenda Item 7e(i) Other matters important for achieving the
aims of the Convention: Cooperation and assistance on Thursday 28 November
2019

Mr President,

The UK was one of the founding signatories of the Convention, and we have become **one of the world's leading donors** on mine action. We assist States to deliver on their core obligations under the Convention, by supporting activities relating to the clearance and destruction of anti-personnel landmines. Our programmes help countries meet their national mine action commitments as well as helping those most vulnerable to the dangers of landmines. Under the UK's Global Mine Action Programme, GMAP, over 270 million square metres of land have been released since 2014.

UK organisations are also at the forefront of global efforts. We are proud of their contribution to operational mine clearance delivery as well as their advocacy to strengthen the Convention.

To deliver on our collective commitment to a world free of landmines we must prioritise **donor support to addressing two key challenges:**

increasing resources for mine action, and making mine action more effective. This means accelerating landmine clearance and doing everything we can to address funding shortfalls.

First, we need to **generate sufficient funding** for the scale of the challenge we face. To do this we must maintain and aim to increase funding from existing donors, and encourage new States to become donors. But we also need to innovate. The UK strongly supports a wide-ranging discussion of all potential future funding options. This should include consideration of social impact and peace bonds, variations of public-private partnerships and blended finance, and corporate social responsibility support.

Second, we need to make mine action more effective, by **identifying key guiding principles and good practices and learning from our work to date**. The UK has shared lessons from our own demining work in the Falklands and will continue to do so.

The UK Global Mine Action Programme focusses on building capacity for **national ownership** by mine-affected states. **Donor coordination** is also essential to ensure that resources are directed efficiently and address

areas of pressing need. The UK looks forward to continuing work through the Mine Action Support Group and other forums to enhance coordination.

Donors can also work with national authorities, operators and local communities to build the **evidence base on how mine action contributes to development**. Universal clearance remains a Convention obligation, but we should aim to maximise the developmental impact of mine action. One practical action donors could take would be to align future project design and how success is measured. This would promote consistent data collection, helping us compare the impact of mine action on development across different contexts and make reporting more efficient for operators.

We must also recognise that mine action is only one source of assistance to the countries in which we operate. Our contributions need to be **understood and prioritised in the context of wider development support** programmes. We maximise efficiency by directing mine action funds to activities where they offer unique added value. The UK recognises the importance of helping states to support the individuals impacted by landmines. We firmly believe that this support needs to be integrated, non-discriminatory and delivered through the most effective means to improve capacity in a sustainable manner.

Finally, mine action is most effective where it takes the different needs of women, girls, men and boys into account. The UK supports **mainstreaming gender** across all Convention implementation activities, and attaches great importance to gender sensitivity in our GMAP programmes. For example, our implementing partners tailor mine risk education sessions for each group to address their particular needs. Since 2014, the UK's global mine action programme has provided tailored support to over 1.1 million people, including many women and children.

In closing, Mr President, we encourage all States Parties to augment their efforts, so far as possible, to help us work together to deliver a mine free world.

Thank you.