

Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Next year we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Since entering into force, the Convention has saved thousands of lives. In addition, treaty commitments paved the way to restoring livelihoods, increasing access to health and education and to reducing poverty. Thus, the convention has become one of the most important international disarmament and humanitarian treaties – a corner stone of Human Security. The anniversary will offer the opportunity to acknowledge progress made since 1997, but also to reconfirm the objective set in 2014 by the Third Review Conference in Maputo: to complete treaty obligations to the fullest extent possible by 2025. In this perspective, the recent increase of mined zones and mine-victims is of great concern to all of us. We shall not lose progress made. As means, methods and ways of war change, our humanitarian obligations become even more important.

In this context, the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations sets a comprehensive and binding framework for sustainable development in all our countries. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are here to transform our world. Mine action will first of all be important to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies as stated by SDG 16. SDG 16 sets the objective to «reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere». «All forms», «everywhere»! Mine action contributes directly to this goal. Far fewer men, women and children suffer or die from antipersonnel mines today than 20 years ago.

However, the impact of mine action goes beyond SDG 16; the Convention enables and accelerates the achievement of several other SDGs as well. Released land provides local population with natural resources and development opportunities. Providing livelihoods and fostering access to basic social services unlocks communities from poverty and strengthens their resilience. Hence mine action contributes to SDG 1 calling to end poverty, to SDG 2 stating the objective of zero hunger, SDG 5 fostering gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as well as to SDG 8 promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. Moreover, SDG 3 ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages provides a strong framework to link victim assistance with broader dimensions of disability, vulnerability and social protection. And finally, SDG 17 calls for a revitalization of global partnerships – an objective at the heart of the Convention.

We are proud of the Convention as a powerful mechanism fostering national ownership as well as international assistance and cooperation with expert organizations and NGOs. A strong global partnership has been built up, mobilising and sharing expertise, technology and financial resources among States Parties. Thus, the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention has shown the impact of a strong legal regime for the people and for sustainable developments. This is best practice – also in view of the Agenda 2030.

Yet, the transformative ambition of the 2030 Agenda also calls for rethinking the way we conceptualize, implement and monitor our work.

Effectiveness, efficiency and coherence: Progressing towards Agenda 2030 will require greater effectiveness and efficiency in planning and delivery as well as an increased coherence. We need comprehensive approaches and at the same time distinct completion strategies. Thus, we will have to break silos between different thematic areas and policy sectors, within our own institutions, across different governance levels and also between the public and the private sector.

Funding and innovation: Official Development Assistance amounted to 132 billion USD in 2015 and this is still far below the 5-7 trillion USD a year required to implement the 2030 Agenda. Already in last years, private donors assured more than a quarter of the international humanitarian aid and we are grateful for that. However, the private sector is not only called to step in financially, but to foster innovation, technology transfer as well as entrepreneurial approaches.

Learning from impact: The UN Agenda 2030 is about making a difference in people's lives and livelihoods. Therefore, we will have to be able to document not only our output but the impact of our work and of the funds invested. Results-based management allows moving beyond measuring the work done and resources spent. Identifying the difference made is essential. Moreover, it's the most intelligent way to learn and to improve our efforts.

To conclude: Mine action has to remain high on the agenda of authorities and international support and investments in mine action must stay at least at current level. Strengthening ties between the Convention and the Agenda 2030 will foster our progress. By building conceptual and operational bridges to the SDGs, the implementation of the Convention will become even more relevant, effective and sustainable – for mine action as well as for Human Security and sustainable development in general.

Thank you for your commitments.