

**Statement on Cooperation and Assistance
Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
Santiago, Chile, 28 November - 1 December 2016**



Cooperation and assistance remains vital and active within the Mine Ban Treaty regime. Your presence here, the continued hundreds of millions of dollars contributed internationally to mine action, and the statements of both support and requests for assistance, are all testaments to that truth.

But, unfortunately, it is time to sound the alarm. In 2015, international support to mine action dipped for the third straight year, this time falling precipitously to levels not seen in a decade. States' contributions to their own national mine action programs similarly declined. The rate of mine clearance fell in 2015, likely as a result of declining support, and already struggling victim assistance efforts are reporting even less capacity. These trends could indicate that States Parties collectively are not on track to meet their commitment to complete major treaty obligations by 2025, nor will there be functioning victim assistance programs in place that must continue beyond that date.

Many delegations have already mentioned this year's Landmine Monitor key findings, which are detailed in more depth in the publication, but as a reminder:

- Thirty-five donors contributed some \$350 million for mine action to 41 states and three other areas. This represents a decrease of more than \$65 million from 2014, and the first time since 2005 that international support fell below \$400 million.
- Fourteen affected states reported providing \$131 million for their own mine action programs, a decrease of \$62 million compared with 2014.
- The amount of land cleared of mines fell by 15% compared with 2014. The severe reduction in funding available undoubtedly played a major role in this.
- Most States Parties with significant numbers of mine victims suffered from a lack of adequate resources to fulfill the commitments of the Maputo Action Plan.

With all that bad news, there is still reason to believe that with wise and committed cooperation and assistance, these trends can be reversed. Compared to earlier years, more states are employing best practices for mine action. Approximately two-thirds of relevant States Parties had active coordination mechanisms or national plans in place to advance efforts to assist mine victims and uphold their rights. Key structures and procedures are in place to take advantage of resources. In many cases, the resources are simply lacking.

This year, many donors appeared to recognize the need for new commitments. They have hosted three international pledging conferences and made other new bilateral pledges, most notably

directed toward Iraq, Lao PDR, and Colombia. These are encouraging, but in themselves not sufficient. It is not simply a matter of securing sufficient funding for the last stretch, but also of ensuring that funding is targeted and used effectively. We encourage stakeholders to adopt a country-specific and issue-specific approach.

Now, States Parties and other supporters must be clear-eyed and determined to make sure that your collective cooperation and assistance efforts meet the wider range of countries with clearance and victim assistance obligations, if we are to meet the goal of a mine-free world and one in which mine victims are active and thriving members of their communities.