

Thank you, President,

The value of cooperation and assistance between the donor community and affected states is widely understood. This partnership has been instrumental in achieving positive change: from making formerly contaminated land safe again to providing lifesaving risk education and adequate assistance to survivors and their families.

But we need to ask ourselves: are we doing enough to protect those at risk and eliminate the threat of landmines once and for all?

Lack of resources is too often cited as the main factor preventing any progress and the pandemic has greatly interfere with all pillars of mine action. With just four years to go before 2025, now is not the time to back down.

The pandemic has increased impetus for greater flexibility and responsiveness from donors to best adapt to the new circumstances. Those efforts should be carried forward and enhanced if we are to finish the job as soon as possible.

To achieve our ambitious goal, *all* affected states and territories should have access to adequate and sustainable resources allowing for the continuation of mine action operations on the ground.

According to the Monitor, in the last decade, international donors contributed more than US\$5 billion to mine action. Most of that funding was directed towards very few countries, strongly favoring those with massive and new contamination, leaving aside countries with smaller and/or legacy contamination. Completion is about leaving no one behind.

Consequently, in the past year, clearance activities received the most support. We cannot afford to overlook the need for continued assistance to survivors and affected communities. It is worrying that victim assistance represented just 6% of all international contributions. In addition, a large number of States Parties with significant numbers of victims received no, or very little, victim assistance support.

Again, are we doing enough?

How do we make sure timely support and resources are provided and used effectively?

Many courses of action can be explored, but we would like to highlight the most substantial.

1. Affected states should regularly provide clear information on remaining challenges, the type of assistance needed, and the level of their national contributions. Equally importantly, they need to develop *and* implement resource mobilization plans for completing their obligations.
2. Donors must not fund and forget. Direct engagement and close follow-up with affected states they support enhances mine action programming and results. Simultaneously, donor states still need to coordinate more closely among themselves to cover any gaps and reach a wider range of countries with different levels of contamination and needs.

3. The good efforts under the individualized approach or country coalitions should be further strengthened to promote long-term engagement, capacity-building, and national ownership that will ensure tangible progress and ultimate completion.
4. While exploring innovative ways of financing for mine action is welcome and needed, these should be viewed as *additional* sources of funding and not substitutes for states' institutional funding.

If we want to get the job done as soon as possible, and in our lifetime, we must be strategic in securing the means to match our ambition of a mine free world.

Thank you.