

Thank you Chair

Twelve years ago the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325, which specifically *emphasised* "... the need for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programmes take into account the special needs of women and girls." Now, it is time that we, both States Parties and the broader implementation community, make sure that this actually happens. It is time to move beyond the general discussions of how to ensure that girls, boys, women and men have equal access to the resources generated through implementation of the Convention, and to start to ask why progress is so slow.

The mine action sector is still pretty much a mans' world, especially at senior management levels, among States, the NGOs and in the expert institutions. We note as one positive development the trend of employing women as deminers by many operators. While it is good that women start to gain access to the same employment resources as men have had for more than a decade, it is a far cry from equal access to resources and privileges.

There is no lack of analysis, information and advocacy. The UN published their first guidelines for gender and mine action in 2005 and the second in 2010. The ICBL has advocated for this since before the Convention entered into force, while the Swiss Gender in Mine Action Programme, has researched and conducted outreach for years. There have been reports by recognised international research institutes and articles in the Journal of Mine Action. Individual NGOs have gender strategies – at least on paper. And finally – all States Parties committed themselves when we adopted the Cartagena Action Plan. So this community does talk the talk – but how do we walk the walk?

We know that the only way to ensure that mine action programs has an equal impact on girls, boys, women and men is to make sure that women and men have equal access to all stages of the activities, from planning and prioritisation to implementation.

We know that continuing with business as usual just will replicate set patterns and that all involved actors need to make an effort to change these patterns. Doing so is not rocket science, and competent advice is ready available – also in this room. What is lacking is the will to make those efforts.

Norway is a major supporter of mine action programs worldwide. All recipients of Norwegian mine action funding are required to report on how they implement Resolution 1325 and other measures to ensure gender equality. So far, reporting on this has been fairly general, with few dedicated targets and indicators. As part of our commitment to help fulfil that 12 year old call from the Security Council, and in

support of Actions 15, 19, 20, 23, 25, 29, 30, 31, 41, 52, 55 and 62 of the Cartagena Action Plan, we will now expect and demand more specific reporting from our partners, with clear indicators and verifiable actions to ensure equal access for all to the resources provided by mine action. It is time to move from the nice words to measureable change.

Thank you.