

Panel 1: Assessing the Convention's Cooperation and Assistance Machinery

Thank you, Mr. President,

The ICBL believes there are a variety of types of information-sharing on cooperation and assistance that can help advance the work of the treaty. Such exchanges could fall under the work of this committee, or under the relevant thematic discussions, though there is of course no need to repeat the same information twice.

First, we think it is useful for donors to lay out what types of information they want to hear from states they support or may consider supporting, all with the goal of maximizing accountability and transparency. Some donors have highlighted, like Switzerland did again today, the need for states to report on what they are doing to increase national ownership, including good management, coordination, and solid planning. They have also emphasized the need to hear concrete, up-to-date plans that are in line with the reality on the ground and to provide clear reporting on results. Calls for information-sharing along these lines, while seemingly self-evident, may be useful feedback for affected states as they prepare reports or requests for assistance.

In turn, effective cooperation and assistance requires affected states to take on board such suggestions by clearly reporting on their progress, remaining work to be done, plans for addressing the remaining work, national contributions, and specific needs for assistance. An ability to present this information in a straightforward manner will show to donors that an affected state has the capacity to efficiently use international assistance and a commitment to working efficiently on the remaining tasks.

In addition, states, technical experts, and other delegates should use this forum for an even greater exchange of lessons learned on the full range of issues necessary to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in mine action. This would include creating effective partnerships, ideas to foster south-south cooperation, strategies for raising national funds and seeking out alternative funding sources (such as private sources or the World Bank), and other ways to ensure there are sufficient resources to complete treaty obligations and to ensure the best possible use of such resources.

Finally, we believe it is worth considering how Article 7 reports can be better used for providing some of the information we just described and to present specific assistance requirements, including amending or adding forms. There is language in the Convention on Cluster Munition's reporting template that could serve as a good model for this treaty.