

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty**  
**ICBL Statement during the Special Session on International Cooperation and Assistance**  
**3 December 2013**



Panel 2.i: Partnerships for implementation: Clearance

The ICBL is making a completion challenge for the Third Review Conference, meaning that we are challenging states to come to Maputo with a clear commitment to complete their remaining major treaty obligations within a clearly defined, ambitious deadline. As an important part of this challenge we are also calling on affected and donor states and other partners to work closely to build informal strategic '**completion partnerships**' aimed at efficient completion of such obligations, mostly focused on Article 5.

We were inspired to make this call by the example of partnership that Mozambique and Norway have set, and are convinced, as the Norwegian Ambassador said this morning, that it could be an excellent model for other states. Over the past several years, Mozambique and Norway teamed up to face unexpected challenges together and ensure that Mozambique could finish its Article 5 obligations as close as possible to its extended deadline. We thank them for sharing their lessons learned from this experience, which shows the critical importance of both national ownership from the affected state, but also long-term commitment and engagement by the international partner.

As their explanation showed, such partnerships usually have a financial component, but in order to be effective, they should involve many more elements to build national ownership and to ensure good collaboration among all stakeholders. In other words, there should be a political commitment by both parties to work together consistently and cooperatively on the path towards completion.

This mutual support is ultimately what the Mine Ban Treaty has always been about. Mine-affected states, states with landmine victims, states with stockpiles agreed to rather heavy obligations when joining the treaty. At the same time they were told they were not alone, and Article 6 requires a great deal of support for them. But again, such assistance should not just be about giving money. As one State Party put it, you can't just fund and forget.

Mr. President, almost \$500 million was provided in international support for mine action in 2012, but without adequate engagement and political support by donor and affected states, we are not always seeing the level of progress one could expect from such an amount. This is why we believe that our call for completion within years, not decades, will have a much greater chance of success if such partnerships are made and maintained during this time.