

Talking points:

- Over the past two decades, international support for mine action doubled, with the greater awareness of the devastating impact of these weapons. However, over the last couple of years support to mine action has been decreasing, for example, international support has decreased \$81 million in 2014 in comparison to 2012. National support has also decreased about \$7 million in 2014 in comparison to 2013 for example.
- It is not complicated to prove nor a contested fact that landmines and explosive remnants of war are still serious and lethal threats to civilians around the world therefore the international community has legal, moral and humanitarian responsibilities to protect people from being killed or maimed by these indiscriminate weapons
- I know too well what it means to live in a village that is contaminated by mines or explosive remnants of war and I am sure many of you have experienced living or working in mine fields. It's important to always remember that sixty-one states and areas are still contaminated by landmines and ERW. Still and every day so many children put their lives at risk to walk to school. Sadly, thousands of people are still being killed and injured by mines. We know that, likely, some 10 people have lost their lives or limbs just over the past 24 hours!
- The Mine Ban Treaty is a vital tool for people living in mine contaminated places, but the vitality of this treaty depends on how effective it's on the ground, for mine affected communities. Obviously it cannot be effective without enough resources allocated for its implementation
- We as a community decided long ago to bring landmine casualties into zero and that ridding the world of landmines and addressing the legacy would be joint effort. I like to urge all states parties and supporters to recommit to this goal by doing at least three things between now and 2025:
  1. Stay committed to allocate enough financial resources for implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, in particular for mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, advocacy and monitoring
  2. Make sure the resources are spent in efficient, effective, accountable, and transparent manner at all stages and in all areas of the mine action programs
  3. Protect and promote the Mine Ban Treaty and the norms it has established by strong political supports all the times and at all levels including at national, regional and international levels
- We are so lucky to have a wealth of expertise who are always ready to put their lives at risk to remove and destroy mines, even during conflict situations. We have got very rich knowledge and expertise in this community to address the needs and rights of mine victims much better than ten years ago. All states parties should benefit from this expertise as we finish the job together.

- As it's clearly reflected in the Presidency's plan for the Mine Ban Treaty this year, the states parties can get the job done by the year 2025. But it's very important to note that if there was one major factor that could hold us back from finishing the job by 2025 that would be the lack of efficiency and financial resources in the course of the next ten years. So please don't let this to happen and don't hold back from walking to the 2025 finishing line and making yet another true history!
- I assure you that the International Campaign to Ban Landmines will walk the last stretch hand in hand with you until we get the job done!