



Second International Pledging Conference for the Anti-Personnel
Mine Ban Convention

28 February 2017, Geneva

Statement by MAG

(Check Against Delivery)

Thank you Mr President,

The 2025 clock is ticking. Completion in many States is achievable and our sector has the people, knowledge and good practice to succeed by then; in some cases even sooner. Yet in countries like Angola, Afghanistan and Cambodia we can only succeed with a step change in funding, combined with the full application of good practice.

2017 is a landmark year for this Convention, the mine action sector and communities we exist to serve. It is a chance for the international community to step up and step forward to ensure that the commitments made in Maputo are delivered. 2017 is a year to renew our commitment to a world where no one lives at risk of death or injury from an indiscriminate weapon that has no place in modern warfare.

Recent years have shown how partnership between NGOs, donors and national authorities achieves results. MAG, the Halo Trust and NPA have worked closely to support the national authority in Angola to develop their extension request. Progress towards 2025 will be faster and more effective when we work together, but success will only be possible with increased and sustained funding.

MAG would also like to remind States of the new landmine emergency in the Middle East where anti-personnel landmines are once again being produced and deployed on an industrial scale. There has been an increase in casualties and communities who have already endured unimaginable suffering facing new landmine contamination in their homes and villages.

MAG's teams in the Middle East have cleared thousands of improvised landmines in recent months, in one of the most complex humanitarian contexts. Despite our efforts and achievements, the need for this work is only set to rise. The Convention and mine action communities have a duty to respond. We must work together to ensure that there are no new casualties from landmines and that new contamination is cleared.

This will also require additional funding, though it is vital that it does not come at the expense of other countries working towards their completion commitments and the 2025 goal.

Finally, I would like to thank all of MAG's donors – including those in the room – for your support.

Many thanks Mr President.

ENDS