



**Third International Pledging Conference for the Anti-Personnel
Mine Ban Convention**

27 February 2018, Geneva

Statement by MAG

(Check Against Delivery)

Thank you Madam President,

We have many reasons to celebrate. After three years of declining support for mine action, 2016 saw an increase in funding according to the latest Landmine Monitor. In 2017, the 20th anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty brought back international and media attention to the issue. And at the end of the year we saw two states join the Treaty. We welcome these positive developments and we hope these will continue for the years to come.

However, we could be doing more, better. We need to broaden the conversation. Five donors contribute 70% of international assistance. Five countries received more than half of this assistance. But the number of casualties in 2016 increased in 30 countries. The number of casualties alone is not always a reliable indicator for the impact of mines, but this significant increase is concerning.

We need more donors to step up their commitment if we are to achieve the 2025 goal that we set ourselves in Maputo. We need international assistance to be directed towards mine action projects that address development challenges, as well as humanitarian ones. And we need assistance to address all pillars of mine action, including victim assistance.

Increased donor support, particularly in countries experiencing humanitarian emergencies, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, is the right thing to do and we encourage it. However, this should not come at the expense of other countries where large communities remain trapped in poverty from conflicts that have ended years ago. Positive studies conducted by colleagues in the sector demonstrate the link between mine action and Sustainable Development Goals, and increased efforts need to be made to ensure these are taken into consideration in practice as well.

We also encourage donors to support the efforts made by States Parties to achieve treaty compliance, particularly Article 5 implementation. Countries like Angola and Zimbabwe, who have submitted good quality extension requests or countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina who has been working to improve its land release methodologies, should be rewarded for their efforts.

We are delighted to see that states continue to join the Treaty and we applaud Sri Lanka and Palestine for joining at the end of last year. We encourage donor states to consider stepping up support in these countries, to promote universalisation.

In a sector where the needs significantly outweigh the resources, increased funding is always encouraged. But where that is not possible, small amounts of funding used effectively can make a significant difference. Where and how the funding is spent can be as important. The key to ensuring

maximum impact is dialogue – between donors, affected states, operators and other expert organisations.

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

Many thanks Madam President.

ENDS