



Statement by Humanity & Inclusion
Anti - Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Fourth International Pledging Conference
26th February 20109
Geneva, Switzerland

Thank you Mr. President,

The year 2019 is a very important one in the life of the Convention. We take the opportunity to thank Norway for its leadership, demonstrated from the very moment it took over the Presidency.

Humanity & Inclusion works in all pillars of mine action in a manner that is disability-inclusive, participatory and gender sensitive with activities in over 40 countries. This means that we implement advocacy, risk education, mine clearance and victim assistance in one and the same geographical area and capitalize on synergies between these activities, for example by our non – technical survey teams not only collecting information related to the contamination, but also on knowledge – attitudes – behaviors for risk education, and on services available for people injured, survivors and indirect victims. Soon enough, the medics on our clearance teams will be training local villagers in first aid, which should reduce the mortality rate of casualties from over 30% to 12%.

Through this comprehensive approach to mine action – CAMA in short – resources are better pooled, data sharing is optimized, and ultimately, our impact on the local population is maximized. Our role as co-coordinator of the Global and Mali Mine Action Area of Responsibility enables us to bring our expertise to the fore.

And while we have seen the results and the success of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention very clearly, we remain acutely aware of the challenges that are ahead of us:

- Sadly, at a time when casualties are at their highest ever since recording began, we are also witnessing an all-time low of *2% in victim assistance earmarked funding*. Let us not forget that victims need support for generations to come. For example, a five year old girl who loses a leg will, for example, need approximately 50 prosthetic legs throughout their lifetime. And, if this girl were to live in Vietnam, she will never return to school if she does not do so within six weeks from the accident. Let us not forget that the plight of survivors is what put the Convention on the table all those years ago – as such this is a call to increase earmarked funding for victim assistance as part of the global mine action budget, until evidence that victim assistance has been mainstreamed into broader efforts is available.
- Following on the above, all present here are now aware that victim assistance requires both specific and broader efforts to ensure its sustainability. The mine action community, i.e. affected and donor states, as well as operators, need to step up their role in victim assistance and be accountable to what their governments is doing in this realm by strengthening the evidence base that victims are benefitting from multi – sector efforts, whether in health, education, or work and employment. States need to collect relevant

data and reporting on this data to demonstrate that victim assistance is effectively integrated into broader humanitarian, development and human rights efforts. Humanity & Inclusion has just delivered a first draft of the International Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance, which it hopes will create much – needed clarity on the role of the mine action community in this aspect of work of the Convention.

- Operators are increasingly working in complex open-conflict contexts that are contaminated with improvised explosive devices, many of them victim - activated. Knowing that no action has a zero-effect on the context, whether positive or negative, Humanity & Inclusion is working to ensure our interventions are gender & conflict - sensitive. Going beyond do-not-harm in the long term, we aim to positively impact the conflict dynamics while identifying opportunities to contribute to transforming those very same dynamics. It is this that situates mine action as an enabler for peace building. We believe the mine action community as a whole has much to learn in this regard, and could benefit from working more closely together with conflict transformation experts.
- Support for clearance in so-called forgotten states has dwindled with money going predominantly to emergencies. While today's emergencies indeed require much – needed support, let us not do so at the cost of countries with legacy contamination. Continue to, for example, support Senegal, DRC, Western Sahara, Algeria, Egypt from a development point of view. To use the SDG slogan; 'let us not leave anyone behind'!
- Support for risk education is at an all-time low, this at a time with an unprecedented increase in casualties and the knowledge at hand that mine risk education saves lives. We thank Norway for its role in galvanizing attention to this pillar of mine action. Let us keep in mind though that risk education should not only educate, but also provide alternatives to risk taking through the provision of alternative & gender – sensitive livelihood options. *Partnerships with organizations specialized in this area of work should be developed to ensure risk is reduced to a maximum!*

Mr. President, we would like to thank you for making an appeal to all members to ensure sufficient funding to achieve the goal of 2025 Mine Free World that all States signed up to during the 3rd Review Conference in Maputo.

There is a powerful symbol outside this building at the Place des Nations, The Broken Chair, which we should remember as we move forward. HI and sculptor Daniel Berset built it in support of the Anti – personnel Mine Ban Convention; later dedicating it in support of the Convention on Cluster Munitions; and in June of 2016, extended its meaning to include our fight against the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

Our joint task is to complete the commitment that was made 22 years ago. Let us - 164 States Parties and civil society – continue to work together towards a mine-free world and to address the human sufferings caused by anti-personnel mines in a manner that is committed, inspired, daring and principled

Thank you.