



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

**26 February 2019, Geneva**

**Statement by MAG**

(Check Against Delivery)

Thank you Mr. President.

We welcome the steady increase in funding for mine action over the last couple of years. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors – including those in the room – for your support. In 2017, the Monitor reported a 37% increase in funding compared to the previous year. This is an important statement about the continued relevance of mine action as an ODA priority.

Beneath this headline success, some worrying trends continue. Almost 80% of international funding in 2017 came from the top five donors and the majority of it continues to go to a small number of countries. Almost two thirds of international funding went to five countries and 30% went to Iraq alone. On the other end, eleven states and one area had only one donor.

The international community is doing the right thing by supporting emergencies in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. At the same time, the full implementation of the Convention requires clearance of legacy contamination. The Convention's success is about fulfilling our promise to the millions of forgotten people who continue to live in fear and poverty because of landmines in places where conflict has ended.

We should look for opportunities to complete before 2025 where possible and celebrate every success along the way. But we also need to rise to the challenge in countries such as Angola, Cambodia and Zimbabwe. These States Parties continue to have high contamination, and they have taken steps to apply best practices, define the size of the remaining problem and designed strong extension requests. What is missing is matching these countries' efforts with the right levels of sustained international support.

Mr. President,

Getting to the finish line matters, but how we get there is equally important. International cooperation and assistance is not just about supporting mine clearance and we must always remember that the needs of victims and survivors endure for life. We also welcome the Norwegian Presidency's focus on gender and participatory approaches to mine action. It reminds us that the convention is not about mines, but about the suffering they cause to people. Suffering that is felt in different ways by women, girls, boys and men.

Gender sensitive programming is the bare minimum everyone should do and is an integral part of effective mine action. In addition, we need to push ourselves further as a sector to be transformative and to actively promote women's empowerment. This will not be easy in many contexts. But the world

is changing and we need to change with it. Not because we need to stay relevant, but because it's the right thing to do.

We need to hold on to the ambition that Landmine Free 2025 is doable in all but a few countries if everyone plays their part. The Review Conference this year is the last chance for the mine action community to get back on track for the 2025 goal. MAG is looking forward to contributing to this individually and as part of the Landmine Free 2025 Campaign, which we encourage everyone to support.

We must all seize every opportunity that this year's Review Conference brings and bring our sector back on track. If we fail to do that, we will leave 60 million people trapped in fear and poverty. That is not something we can live with. So we call on you to do what is right and deliver on the Convention's promise to all mine-affected communities.

Many thanks Mr. President.

**ENDS**