

**ICRC statement to the**  
**Fifth International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban**  
**Convention**

**25 February 2020**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) is a key treaty of international humanitarian law, which has brought significant and tangible results to people and communities affected by anti-personnel mines. It is rightly hailed as a success and a model of how to address the effects of weapons which have unacceptable costs in humanitarian terms.

The success of this Convention is largely thanks to the sustained commitment and partnerships of mine affected States and States in a position to help them. Following the successful Review Conference which took place in Oslo last November, the ICRC urges all State Parties able to do so to provide resources and exert influence where necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the Oslo Action Plan. No affected State Party should be left behind in this process.

Equally important contributors to the success of the APMBC is the effective and efficient operation of its Implementation Support Unit and the APMBC's sponsorship program. The ICRC commends both for their efforts. They have played a critical role in supporting States Parties and in furthering the goals of the Convention. Adequate funding for the ISU and the sponsorship program is decisively important, especially as efforts focus on fulfilling the goals of the convention in the coming years.

Equally important is the engagement and actions of international and non-governmental organizations. The ICRC is proud to have been part of the efforts that led to the adoption of the Convention some 20 years ago, and we continue to work towards its full universalization and implementation, notably through our field delegations in mine-affected and formerly mine-affected countries. We also continue to work for the substantial improvement in the services and quality of life for mine victims and other persons with disabilities.

The ICRC itself can testify to the impact of mine action funding on the lives of mine victims and others affected by armed conflict. We have a presence in most mine-affected countries and operations that often focus on victim assistance, mine risk education and reduction, and cooperating with partners specialized in clearance.

As illustrated in the handout which is made available at the desk outside this room, the ICRC receives funding for these activities through its annual Special Appeal for Disability and Mine Action (115.85 million CHF requested for 2020), and also uses non-earmarked funding from its operational appeal for broader prevention initiatives. The ICRC is grateful to donor States for the resources that they have provided.

As a complement to existing efforts, the ICRC strives to explore innovative ways of mobilizing resources. For example, in 2017, the ICRC launched the first Humanitarian Impact Bond, raising 25 million USD from private investors for the construction of 3 physical rehabilitation centres in Mali, Nigeria and DRC.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, we must capitalize on the commitments made by States Parties at the Oslo Review Conference to ensure concerted and decisive actions be taken over the next five years, if we are to achieve the humanitarian aims of the Convention. The international community must again use its collective determination and harness the remarkable partnership in action, programs and funding.

Thank you.