



## **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 5<sup>th</sup> Review Conference**

**November 2024**

### **Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance**

Mr. President, International cooperation and assistance enables mine action to happen, empowering affected States, fostering partnerships, and delivering life-saving impact on the ground. The collective commitment of State Parties, operators, and other stakeholders has transformed lives worldwide.

Yet cooperation and assistance must evolve to meet the growing demands of modern mine action. Many affected States face significant barriers, from funding gaps to operational constraints, that hinder their ability to meet Article 5 obligations. These challenges are not just financial—they are structural and systemic, requiring a shift in how we collaborate as a global community.

We especially welcome the focus within the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan on strengthening the coordination of international assistance, including the proposed exploration of a voluntary trust fund to support affected States Parties in parallel. Such an initiative would be transformative and strengthening the Convention, offering States Parties struggling to secure international assistance a pathway into advancing on their legal and time-bound commitments under Article 5. We look forward to continued dialogue and progress toward a decision on its establishment. It is crucial that all possible funding options are explored in parallel.



HALO also believes that innovation is key to overcoming barriers. Exploring new financing models, strengthening local capacities, and integrating mine action with environmental and development initiatives are practical ways to maximise the impact of cooperation and assistance. We must also prioritise the unique needs of mine-affected communities, ensuring that gender considerations and environmental sustainability are embedded in all aspects of our work in a truly cross-cutting manner. As active member of both the Gender and Diversity Working Group as well as the Environmental Issues and Mine Action Working Group, we are pleased to see relevant references in the new Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan.

HALO wants to express sincere gratitude to the Government of Norway for its continuous support to HALO and most recently funding the Gender and Diversity Working Group evaluation. This evaluation represents an important step in reflecting on what the sector has achieved so far and planning how we can further advance gender and diversity in mine action.

We must work together to strengthen partnerships that build resilience and empower the entire sector. Cooperation is also about sharing knowledge and embedding mine action within broader humanitarian and development strategies. HALO is committed to supporting this agenda, working with States and partners to drive meaningful progress.

To this end, we are thankful to the Government of Canada for announcing their support to HALO Cambodia over the coming two years earlier this week. Canadian funding will allow for the deployment of mine clearance, risk education, and survey teams creating safe land for communities who have been affected by remnants of war for over 30 years increasing development and access to markets. Funding will also incorporate gender and environmental programmes for both HALO staff and women headed households of HALO beneficiaries.

We welcome the strong focus on international cooperation and assistance in the new action plan and look forward to working with all stakeholders in the next five years to achieve the biggest possible impact.

Thank you.