

**ICBL Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance
18MSP Mine Ban Treaty, 16-20 November 2020**

2020 has been a challenging year. It has pulled us together in a different way, pushed us to find new solutions, and to refocus our efforts on what is essential. It has demonstrated that to respond to global challenges, we need strong partnerships, resilience, and cooperation. These are all key attributes of the mine action community.

Our shared goals are clear: making contaminated areas safe again, ending the suffering and casualties caused by mines, and providing long-term support to victims. To be able to do so, sustained international cooperation and assistance are crucial.

Since 2010, international support totaled more than US\$5 billion. Ten percent of which was provided in last year alone with donors contributing some \$560 million. With no surprises, the same old pattern was repeated again. A handful of donors contributed to most of the funding and half of all funding went to just five countries.

Similarly, dedicated international funding to victim assistance was for the large part the result of support within the context of emergency operations in conflict-affected countries. It is striking that 24 States Parties with significant numbers of victims did not received such funding.

While this is nothing new, clearly there is room and need for improvement. We have said this many times before: again we encourage all donors to make sure that assistance is reaching a wider range of countries with different levels of contamination, new and old, and with victim assistance obligations.

Besides financial contributions, other forms of assistance such as provision of equipment, expertise, know-how, best-practices, and all forms of cooperation are equally important and needed.

The unexpected challenges we have collectively faced this year should be an opportunity to depart from business as usual, to strive for innovation, and to ensure a much more efficient distribution of support among *all* affected states and territories, among *all* pillars of mine action. This will be key to realize the Oslo Action Plan and fulfill the promise of the treaty.

Thank you.