

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION – 19TH MEETING OF STATES**

PARTIES

15-19 NOVEMBER 2021

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Wednesday 17 November 2021

10c Cooperation and Assistance: Conclusions and recommendations 15:00-18:00

Thank you Mr President,

As this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor, I would like to first thank you and your team for your stalwart leadership this year. I would also like to extend my warm thanks to the ISU, interpreters and the conference and technical support staff for facilitating this week's 19th Meeting of the States Parties. I look forward to working together with States Parties to drive forward important work in this Convention.

The United Kingdom has played a leading role in tackling the indiscriminate and lethal legacy of landmines. We are proud that this Convention is now one of the world's most accepted treaties and we remain committed to its humanitarian goals. As a leading donor in mine action, we continue to support the clearance and destruction of anti-personnel landmines, delivery of risk education, and to build capacity to enable national and provincial authorities to take ownership of clearance activities.

Since 2018, the UK's Global Mine Action Programme has cleared and confirmed safe over 406 million square metres of land, and provided 3.34 million people with

risk education in 15 countries. UK-funded mine action programmes help countries meet their national mine action commitments as well as helping those most vulnerable to the dangers of landmines.

The UK is continuing important work on building the evidence base for the impact of mine action to help us to understand and maximise our collective impact. We are concluding work on an evaluation of the Global Mine Action Programme 2 (GMAP2) and will work with partners across the sector to implement the findings and recommendations into the third phase of the programme, GMAP3, which is scheduled to start in 2022. We are finalising funding and country allocation for GMAP3 and will update the sector in due course.

Earlier this year, the UK funded Social Finance and the HALO Trust to explore the potential for innovative finance solutions to address funding shortfalls that many countries with contamination face, and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all stages of mine action. This research identified three key possible models for innovative mine action finance: outcomes finance (including impact bonds), public-private partnerships, and front-loaded funding. This month, we will be hosting a workshop in Cambodia to explore the potential of piloting one of the models. We look forward to considering next steps on this important agenda with partners across the sector.

In 2019, the United Kingdom commissioned Fenix Insight Ltd to conduct an exploitation exercise on specific types of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines to consider the likely effects of ageing, and the implications for handling and disposal of these devices. We are delighted to share the findings of this research, which is now available to view publicly on the Convention's website.

In closing, the United Kingdom reiterates its steadfast support to the Convention, and commitment to work with all States Parties to tackle the scourge of landmines.