



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meeting

June 2021

Statement by The HALO Trust Completion and Sustainable National Capacities Written submission

Thank you.

HALO is delighted that this topic has been included as a thematic session at this Intersessional Meeting and we thank all of the panellists for their reflections.

During the development of the Oslo Action Plan, HALO lobbied hard with other organisations for strong commitments around post-completion information management and national capacity to respond to newly discovered contamination. We were pleased that States Parties adopted Actions 9 and 26 in Oslo.

But our recommendations to States Parties went beyond what was ultimately agreed in Oslo in 2019. We worked alongside MAG, HI, NPA and others as part of with the Landmine Free 2025 campaign to propose key recommendations to all mine action stakeholders.

Among these was the recommendation to, and I quote “Plan for the future, including the national sustainable management of residual risk, sustainable assistance to victims and survivors, and sustainable and equitable futures for demining staff after completion of clearance.” We stand by that.

The Landmine Free 2025 Campaign’s Fair Share report also included an Innovation Manifesto, comprising 11 Commitments. Three are especially relevant to this discussion:

1. Establish plans that will ensure equity and prevent gender dis-empowerment for demining staff when clearance is completed.
2. Develop joint strategies between the clearance and victim assistance communities to ensure that no victim is left behind.

3. Ensure dignity in retirement or future livelihood for all mine action employees when clearance is complete.

We stand by these recommendations. What was agreed to in Oslo is a floor, not a ceiling.

We hope that today's discussion marks the beginning of a full conversation about planning for legally compliant, sustainable and equitable post-completion strategies.

So Delegates,

However far off completion may seem, now is the time to plan for what comes after: for information management, sustainable survey and clearance response capacity, sustainable victim and survivor assistance, lasting empowerment and equity for women, and dignified futures for the staff who have devoted themselves and risked their lives in service to mine action.

We will only achieve this if we challenge ourselves. If donors are open to the conversation about cost. If national authorities are willing to advocate within their own governments. If we are open to innovative finance and partnerships with the private sector. If we think about opportunities outside mine action. And, most importantly, if we keep those who will be most affected at the heart of it.

ENDS