

**Seventh Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel
Mine Ban Convention, 1 March 2022**
ICBL Remarks

Dear colleagues and friends,

As we celebrate the 23rd anniversary of the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty, it is great to see so many donor states present, pledging financial support for treaty implementation. Three years away from our collective goal of 2025, it is not too late to take concrete action, and invest the resources and the political will to finish the job.

Today, treaty challenges are numerous. The ICBL is gravely concerned with the increased use of improvised mines and increase in casualties. We are alarmed by the long and repeated delays in clearance by many States Parties, and by the lack of compliance with decisions on extension requests, and with the Oslo Action Plan commitments.

Only a handful of States Parties appear to be on track to complete clearance by 2025. Considering we have been pursuing this goal since 2014, it is time to strategically rethink our collective effort on Art. 5, or run the deadly risk of postponing clearance obligations indefinitely.

There is need for more efforts on assistance to victims, on the unresolved missed deadlines for stockpile destruction, and most recently the violation of the treaty by Eritrea.

While funding for mine action has been substantial, it has gone to relatively few countries and it has not always rewarded good work and proper planning.

When international support decreases, there are consequences on operations on the ground: contaminated land remains inaccessible for productive use, the toll in human lives and limbs taken grows, and survivors and affected communities are denied their right to adequate support.

Most mine-affected countries do not receive direct funding for victim assistance and support for clearance is largely directed at those with massive contamination. This formulation limits available resources for countries with lesser levels of contamination, prolonging clearance efforts. There is a real need for donor states to provide sustainable and suitable levels of funding to all, and to coordinate among themselves towards increased efficiency.

We know that with further resolve, greater determination and stronger political will, these challenges can be fully overcome. And to this end, we count on you.

In the last two years, it has perhaps been hard for those of us based in Geneva, to keep in touch with the reality of mine action and the significant challenges faced. As we resume work in-person, ICBL is committed to making sure that the voices, faces, and concerns of mine-affected communities; of landmine survivors, and of those who do the daily work of clearing mines and ERW – are included in decision making fora.

We encourage partners to benefit from Landmine Monitor expertise, and to reach out to us for data when making funding decisions. With this in mind, we have prepared a Monitor infograph with the latest data on mine action funding trends for your information. Keep using us as a resource, we are here for you.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to all the ICBL-CMC and Monitor donors for their continuous support throughout the years, allowing for civil society research, capacity development at local level, and advocacy efforts.

Thank you.