



Convention on Cluster Munitions
Second Review Conference, Second Preparatory Committee Meeting
4 September 2020

Statement by The HALO Trust

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Mr President.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of The HALO Trust as their primary delegate was unable to travel due to COVID-19 restrictions. In the interests of time, we will make only one intervention on the Lausanne Action Plan and RevCon progress as a whole.

First, HALO would like to congratulate the Presidency and States Parties for having maintained momentum towards the Review Conference in spite of COVID-19. As we all know, this RevCon is critical for the Convention. We welcome Nieu as the 109th State Party and congratulate Croatia and Montenegro on their completion of survey and clearance this year.

However, the period since the 2015 Dubrovnik Review Conference has not, in general, seen the progress that it should have done in Article 4 implementation. There needs to be an increase in the pace of survey and clearance, and better application of good practice in Land Release. The next review cycle must see more countries achieve compliance with Article 4.

Only Lao PDR is defined by the Mine Action Review as having massive contamination from cluster munition remnants. Most States Parties with remaining Article 4 obligations should be able to fulfil them by the Third Review Conference. We therefore welcome the spirit of ambition in the Lausanne Action Plan draft, as well as the inclusion of measurable goals and indicators.

We also strongly support the cross cutting issues as they are currently included, particularly concerning gender and diversity. We especially welcome the inclusion of environment as a cross cutting theme. Humanitarian disarmament must be more closely aligned with broader environmental and social challenges, including climate change. The mine action community must also strive to ensure it has the least negative impact possible on post-clearance land use, biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Mr President,

We have stressed in our written submissions the importance of achieving synergies, as far as is possible, between the Lausanne Action Plan and the AP Mine Ban Convention's 2019 Oslo Action Plan. This is vital for practical implementation at the national level, where mine action authorities address all forms of contamination under a single regulatory and legislative framework.

In closing,

This Convention was brought about by close partnership and collaboration between civil society and states. The inclusion of communities, survivors, NGOs and civil society experts in its implementation has been – and will remain – critical to its success. We are grateful to the Mine Action Review for its detailed analysis of the draft documents, and to the Presidency for taking into account input submitted by the Mine Action Review, HALO and other NGOs.

We also welcome the initiative to stream meetings to those unable to travel or participate. But we want to stress that watching and sending written submissions does not amount to inclusion for states or civil society. We urge States Parties to develop and support initiatives that will enable full and meaningful remote participation in proceedings. This is an issue of principle. But it is also essential for the successful implementation of the Convention at a critical moment in its lifespan.

HALO wishes you every success in the next stage of preparations for the Review Conference.

Thank you.

ENDS