

Dear Excellencies and colleagues,

RE: Gender Working Group reflections in advance of the Second RevCon Preparatory Meeting

We are writing on behalf of the informal Gender Working Group¹ (GWG) in advance of the Second Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Review Conference with reflections on the gender equality considerations in the draft conference documents. This note also requests your support to various positions during your interventions at next week's PrepCom.

Oslo Action Plan

- The GWG welcomes the inclusion of gender considerations in specific actions and indicators across the *Oslo Action Plan*. In particular, we commend the inclusion of actions regarding both gender-sensitive programming – such as ensuring the needs of women, girls, boys and men inform all areas of convention implementation – as well as actions promoting gender equality, such as encouraging the equal and active participation of women in mine action and Convention meetings.
- **We seek your support in ensuring that gender is retained as currently included in the Oslo Action Plan's thematic section.**
- We are, however, concerned that gender is not also referenced in Section IV on survey and clearance. The section should recognise the need for information collection from local communities. This is an issue of principle but it is also relevant to effective survey and clearance and not simply a duplication of what is already included in the thematic section. Consultations with all groups are essential as women, girls, boys and men have different patterns of mobility and may hold different contamination information.
- **We also seek your support to amend Action 18 and the associated indicator to clearly reference consultations with women, girls, boys and men.**

Political Declaration

- We welcome the inclusion of Clause 10 in the draft elements for the *Oslo Declaration*, which acknowledges the need to take into account the needs of women, girls, boys and men. We do not, however, feel that this is strong enough or fully reflective of what is included in the Action Plan.
- **We request that your delegation calls for this element to be strengthened to also call for “gender equality in the implementation of the Convention and the removal of barriers to equal and active participation of women in mine action and in Convention meetings, in line with the *Oslo Action Plan*.”**

Treaty machinery

- The *Reflections on the meeting programme and machinery and draft recommendations* are approaching a gold standard of mainstreaming by mandating all Committees to take into account gender and diversity issues into their work. We also welcome the proposal of identifying a gender focal point in each of the Committees, as well as the responsibility for gender mainstreaming lying with the Chair of each Committee. This is essential in order to ensure that gender is considered within the full implementation of the Convention.

¹ Includes: Dan Church Aid (DCA), Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Halo Trust, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Mine Action Review, Mines Action Canada, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA).

- We are, however, concerned with the disparity between current practice and the mainstreamed concept proposed in the machinery framework. Without a proactive approach, there is a risk of reverting to box-ticking and a lack of substantive discussion on effective mainstreaming of gender.
- **We seek your delegation's support in highlighting the need for proactive training, support and engagement by States Parties with a view to States Parties agreeing good practice at the 18th Meeting of States Parties.**

Achieving a landmine free 2025 is important, but how we achieve it is equally important because it has a lasting impact on the communities in which we work. To deliver more effective mine action, the sector needs to ensure that strong commitments are made at the Review Conference and to create the right framework for their implementation. We hope to have your support on these suggestions in the lead up to the Review Conference and in the future. Please feel free to contact us directly should you require any additional information.

Best wishes,



Roxana Bobolicu, MAG
Co-Chair, Gender Working Group



Jasmine Dann, Halo Trust
Co-Chair, Gender Working Group