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Cooperation and Assistance

**22 MSP of the APMBC
Geneva, Switzerland, 1-5 December 2025**

Madam President,

I would like to thank you, the ISU Director and your respective teams for effectively steering our work and cooperation over the past year. The GICHD greatly values its long-standing cooperation with this Convention and remains committed to supporting its work.

Cooperation and assistance are key to implement the Ottawa Convention, particularly now, as we face increasing political pressure on the hard-won norms of the Convention.

The Action Plan adopted last year in Siem Reap provides a solid framework for strengthening cooperation and assistance. It encourages States Parties to make full use of the Convention's mechanisms, take the lead in building sustainable national capacities, and ensure that legacy contamination, risk education, and victim assistance are included in the process of prioritization.

As highlighted in the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan, international support must go hand in hand with strong national ownership and be guided by the vision and commitment of affected States. For this reason, the GICHD supports using Individualised Approach and National Mine Action Platforms as effective means to mobilize resources under the leadership and coordination of affected States. We encourage all relevant States Parties to make active and full use of this mechanism.

The GICHD provides technical advice and assistance to requesting States, tailored to their specific contexts and needs. Our interventions are developed jointly with national authorities to strengthen ownership.

Madam President,

The GICHD provides bilateral technical support to States, but it also hosts three Regional Cooperation Programmes – for Arab- and French-speaking countries, as well as States from Eastern Europe,

South Caucasus and Central Asia. These regional platforms to promote the sharing of knowledge and experience, on the latest standards and methodologies.

In May 2025, under the Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme, the GICHD organized a regional course in Benin in French for explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) Project Managers of eight Governments and other national actors in Africa.

Then, in June, the Centre held a workshop in Australia with Pacific States on information management and operations analysis in mine action to enhance national capacities on managing explosive ordnance risks due to land and water contamination during World War Two.

In September 2025, through its Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia Regional Cooperation Programme, the GICHD held a workshop on International Obligations in Mine Action, focusing on the APMBC, the CCM and the CCW, as well as overarching International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law obligations. We believe such initiatives contribute to stronger regional engagement with relevant international instruments.

Furthermore, the Centre recently conducted regional courses on Land Release and on Inclusive Leadership as part of its Arab Cooperation Programme in the MENA region. Our Team is currently holding a regional IM course in Jordan for Governments and civil society actors in the region.

Throughout 2025, the Centre also supported States Parties in developing or reviewing their national Mine Action Strategies. Strategic planning assistance was provided to Angola, Sri Lanka, and Yemen, helping to ensure that national strategies remain aligned with international good practices.

Madam President,

The GICHD welcomes information on international assistance received by some States Parties to fulfil their APMBC obligations. At the same time, we remain concerned that limited financial resources continue to hinder progress and that some affected States continue to face challenges in attracting the necessary support, including due to donor current priorities.

To foster greater support to States, the GICHD is exploring innovative finance solutions—from establishing a frontloading facility to issue bonds to developing blended-finance approaches. Our objective is to create stronger incentives that link mine action to reconstruction, recovery, and sustainable development. Through our Innovative Finance Secretariat, we convene sector stakeholders to design solutions that diversify and strengthen the global funding base for mine action.

Supporting the implementation of the APMBC today is a demonstration of our solidarity and shared resolve to protect civilians during and after conflict - commitments that must remain at the core of our collective efforts.

Thank you