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SUMBISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE POLICY REVIEW

MAC PROFILE

Mines Action Canada (MAC) is a Canadian non-governmental organization founded in 1994. MAC is an international leader working to eliminate the serious humanitarian, environmental and developmental consequences of indiscriminate weapons. It works to reduce lethal barriers to development such as landmines, cluster munitions, and explosive remnants of war (ERW). It is the Canadian partner of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the 1997 co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2017, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Ottawa Treaty, one of the most successful international disarmament treaties. MAC is also a founding member of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Conflict has devastating impacts on communities and the civilians who live in them. The deadly debris left behind such as landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war pose significant lethal barriers to development. Their presence not only inhibits sustainable development, but sentences entire communities to poverty and create serious danger to the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Canada has demonstrated through its pioneering work on landmines that much can be done to both prevent conflict and also to remove those lethal barriers to development.

International assistance covers complex issues that require extensive planning and programming as well as multi-faceted support. For this reason, MAC hopes that an overarching theme of this review will be the need for a whole of government approach. Such an approach means intra- and interdepartmental discussions on issues that require multiple approaches, specifically post-conflict reconstruction and the role of government in conflict prevention.

As well, MAC is encouraged by this review's role in reopening a dialogue between civil society and the government on international issues. Canada has a strong and vibrant civil society who have a long history of direct experience as respectful and effective partners in development and humanitarian issues. Therefore, Canada can build on this strength through its work of engaging civil society in multi-stakeholder spaces. Future commitments can benefit tremendously from the knowledge, experience and existing infrastructure of Canadian civil society.

The tolerance for risk involved with international assistance should be discussed thoroughly. Sustainable development is complex in nature and requires constant learning and evaluation. Canada therefore should revisit its current financial support schemes to give organizations involved in the important tasks of humanitarian assistance and sustainable development the latitude for experimentation, failure, and growth opportunities. This

risk should not be shied away from and instead embraced as an important part of innovation and the search for better practices.

MAC has long advocated and supported youth involvement in humanitarian programs and development assistance. Youth as volunteers, practitioners and decision-makers facilitate a more long-term approach to international assistance and provide an important lens on the needs and desires of the future generations. Youth already are leaders in their communities and with support they can grow and become global leaders.

MAC knows that the work of the global mine action community to clear landmine and explosive remnants of war, to assist victims and to end the use of these indiscriminate weapons is crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Without eliminating these lethal barriers to development, communities will be unable to reach their other goals. Canada should renew its commitment to the Ottawa Treaty as a means of achieving our international assistance goals.

Similarly, MAC is supportive of the government's renewed commitment to feminism, women's rights and the impact women have in international assistance. A feminist approach to development aids in creating inclusive and sustainable communities. The feminist perspective has always been an important aspect of MAC's programming and ideological approach.

POLICY

HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In many countries women and men have different work and thus different experiences and exposure to landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs). The fallout from mine and ERW casualties is disproportionately felt by women. Though men are more often directly impacted by mines or ERWs, the indirect effects of these weapons are felt by women in socio-economic terms and in forms of discrimination in victim assistance programs.¹ Differing access to healthcare leads to challenges for women and girls. In certain situations, a woman's ability to find a partner may be impeded by a disability. As a result, her socio-economic status may further marginalize her in society.

Mine/ERW widows provide a clear example of the gender-specific challenges faced by women. Few national laws, policies or victim assistance projects account for widows. Widows typically experience a significant decline in economic security following the death of a partner, compounded by social, economic, or educational barriers which impede their ability to successfully enter the workforce. Widows often lose their homes or agricultural land due to deficient land and property rights. Women's work is consistently undervalued in informal and subsistence economies, such as

Following the death of her son from clearing a cluster submunition in Iraq in 2003, American Lynn Bradach, became a Ban Advocate and a strong campaigner for the ban on cluster munitions. She hopes to prevent other mothers from experiencing her pain of losing a child to cluster munitions.

¹ The term survivor refers to persons physically involved in the detonation of landmines or ERWs. Victim means all persons who have been killed or suffered physical or psychological injury, economic loss, social marginalization or substantial impairment of the realization of their rights caused by the use of these weapons.

homes and farms, leading to an overall “undervaluing of the socioeconomic needs and contributions of widows” in their communities.²

For these reasons, women are a particularly vulnerable population and involving women in post-conflict reconstruction is vital for an inclusive and equal society. Involving victims in post-conflict reconstruction helps to give agency to members of communities as decision-makers. For example, women have taken active roles in risk education, teaching members of the community to recognize dangerous objects and report them. As caregivers, women pass this lifesaving information along to children, who are often victims of landmines and ERWs. Furthermore women have different roles in the community and thus face different mine/ERW threats, by including women in policy and program planning those unique experiences are more adequately reflected. That is just one example of the value of including women in aid programs as active agents of change. Canadian international assistance could begin to address these problem by encouraging the inclusion of women into Canadian funded programming including, but not limited to widows and other indirect victims of mines/ERW in victim assistance programs.

RECOMMENDATION: WOMEN SHOULD BE SEEN AS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Additionally, the role of youth in post-conflict should not be understated. Youth programming both locally and internationally can help to integrate long-term results into policy making. By involving the next generation, youth are empowered to be leaders in their communities and programming can reflect the ideas of those who will be affected. In addition to youth engagement projects, the special needs and the voices of children and youth must be taken into consideration when planning international assistance programs. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) requires age appropriate victim assistance yet many survivors surveyed say that services are not adapted for age. This demonstrates the gap in programming when it comes to youth involvement. If youth are able to be agents of the change they will feel and be empowered as leaders of their communities.

RECOMMENDATION: CHILDREN AND YOUTH SHOULD RECEIVE AGE APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE

Involving Canadian youth in international assistance allows Canadians to tell the stories of humanitarian action while contributing to the employability of youth in the Canadian labour force. The International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) is an excellent example of how youth can use their empathy and commitment to global peace initiatives to partner with international organizations and youth around the world to affect change in their community. Canadian youth gather valuable professional skills from these internships that improve their resume and competitiveness in the Canadian job market. Programs such as IYIP involve youth in international assistance, partnering with international youth as global leaders in sustainable development, while providing professional development opportunities for Canadian youth.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADIAN YOUTH PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM SHOULD CONTINUE ANNUALLY TO SUPPORT EMPOWERING YOUTH AS AGENTS OF CHANGE AND PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

² Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, Victim Assistance and Widowhood, June 2015, p. 4

CLEAN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The natural environment is an element necessary to growth and security. Environments around the world serve as playgrounds for children, agricultural land, residential areas and more. To harm the environment is to harm the communities that inhabit it. Unfortunately, armed conflict ravages the environment and leaves communities without that with which they need to grow and survive. We must recognize the environment as not just a potential cause of conflict but also a casualty of conflict. The protection of the environment is necessary in the protection of civilians in times of armed conflict.

Armed conflict has always left long-term effects on the environment, be it land contaminated by mines and cluster munition remnants, the use of herbicides and other chemicals or the ecological damage caused by the bombing of industrial sites. Beyond this, depleted uranium weapons damage soil for years to come, impeding sustainable growth and impacting public health. These long-term effects on the environment have similarly long-term effects on public health.

Additionally, this year the United Nations Environmental Assembly's resolution on conflict and the environment recognized "that sustainable development and the protection of the environment contribute to human well-being and the enjoyment of human rights" and "the specific negative effects of environmental degradation on women".³ Therefore, Canada as a co-sponsor of that resolution should see the importance of maintaining or rebuilding a healthy environment and apply a gendered perspective to environmental damage. This is an area where a feminist perspective on development can aid in understandings of how conflict and the environment affect women and girls differently.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD LEVERAGE ITS POSITION TO SUPPORT MORE EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MAINSTREAMING POLICIES IN EARLY RECOVERY AND POST CONFLICT PROGRAMS

Explosive weapons destroy critical infrastructure, severely impairing humanitarian organizations' access to communities in need. For example, schools and hospitals are often points of delivery for humanitarian services and their destruction interrupts the ability of humanitarian organizations to provide much needed support. This type of destruction impedes humanitarian organizations from moving freely through conflict zones and providing necessary services. Likewise, damage to water and sanitation services can impact civilians' access to clean water. Contaminated water is a humanitarian crisis. The destruction of residential areas not only results in civilian death but leaves survivors with inadequate shelter leading to displacement.

³ UNEA 2 Resolution http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/cpr_portal/Portals/50152/UNEA2%20RES/15.pdf

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Mines Action Canada recommends that Canada see itself as a capacity builder in communities affected by explosive weapons, mines and ERWs. Canada can ensure that environmental and public health concerns are addressed in early recovery and post-conflict reconstruction. This cross-cutting issue is a niche area of international assistance that requires attention. Not only is it vital to helping communities coming out of conflict, it is achievable. As a capacity builder, Canada can

support de-mining and environmental rehabilitation programs to create a safer environment for communities, as well as support a rights-based approach to victim assistance programs involving gender inclusion. This focus would aid in achieving Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, creating accountable and sustainable institutions.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD BE A CAPACITY BUILDER FOR COMMUNITIES WITH DAMAGED INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTS

GOVERNANCE, PLURALISM, DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Governance is and should remain a central aspect of international assistance. Canadian youth on international internships and humanitarian workers working in disarmament and advocacy through Canadian funded initiatives act as informal ambassadors for Canada’s commitments to international assistance. Canada has a unique opportunity to provide diverse informal ambassadors and humanitarian workers because of its bilingualism and multiculturalism. This proud aspect of Canadian society is useful in international assistance, providing peace-building and programming in national languages. Canada’s diversity coupled with our international reputation for human rights, peace and human security is a comparative advantage for Canada in providing international assistance and should be capitalized on.

RECOMMENDATION: CAPITALIZE ON CANADIAN DIVERSITY AND BILINGUALISM AS A COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE FOR PEACEBUILDING

In conjunction with diverse humanitarian workers from Canada is the involvement of survivors and victims in local programming. As mentioned above, the involvement of local populations in the decision-making process is crucial in developing long-term sustainable success. In the efforts to eradicate landmines, landmine survivor networks have advocated successfully for better programs and policies at national and international levels. When local populations are involved in the creation and implementation of assistance programs, the programs are better able to meet their needs and achieve the desired results. Canada should support those efforts. The term “nothing about us without us” speaks to survivors and victims having power in the reconstruction of their societies.

“When local populations are involved in the creation and implementation of assistance programs, the programs are better able to meet their needs and achieve the desired results.”

Mine clearance programs must include local communities to ensure that increased Canadian funding for mine action aimed at meeting our commitments under the Maputo Action Plan, results in increased safety and prosperity for communities.

Within local communities, youth remain central to international assistance. Youth are the agents of change in their societies and are critical in building long-term solutions. Governance should see youth as not simply recipients of assistance but providers and decision-makers too.

Additionally, working with civil society's infrastructure, will fast-track assistance projects and improve efficiency. A potentially helpful funding structure could be to expand local funding. Increased funding to the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) would better serve on the ground requests in a timely and efficient manner.

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RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD REVIEW FUNDING MODELS TO EXPAND DIRECT LOCAL FUNDING THROUGH THE CANADA FUND FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

PEACE AND SECURITY

Peace and security more than any other aspect of this review requires a whole of government approach. International assistance programs must be coupled with peacekeeping missions from defence as well as diplomatic relations. Global Affairs Canada can work with the Department of Defence to ensure peacebuilding initiatives and peacekeeping missions are a priority as well as working with ambassadors to instill the importance of international treaties banning dangerous weapons with all our allies at all levels of interaction.

An important way Canada can take a whole of government approach to peace and security is through a commitment to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as soon as possible. Canada is the only member of NATO not to have signed the treaty. The ATT helps limit worldwide trade in arms, having a measurable effect on areas affected by armed conflict. This treaty is an important commitment to decreasing armed conflict and promoting peace. The government has been clear that Canada will join the ATT, but as a state party Canada should put diplomatic and financial resources behind its implementation. The disarmament and non-proliferation team at Global Affairs Canada needs the appropriate resources to do this work effectively.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD BECOME A CONSTRUCTIVE STATE PARTY TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

The ATT formalizes the trade of arms which is an important part of reducing conflict or at least the severity of

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conflict. However, Canada must further support humanitarian disarmament. It is not enough to just restrict arms movement, Canada must be an active participant in disarming conflict and post-conflict areas.

International assistance can allow civil society to take leadership with existing programs and infrastructure. Civil society has a long history of providing peace-building and peace-making programs and victim assistance programs with considerable success, success that can be continued and expanded upon with government support. International

mine action groups and women’s groups are already working on the ground in many countries providing programming. Canada should liaise with established groups and networks to build upon the work already done in communities.

Canada pioneered the idea of civil society monitoring international disarmament treaties with initial support to the Landmine Monitor. That experiment paid off – civil society monitoring has proven to be cost-effective and useful to states with minimal upfront costs. Civil society monitoring is now an innovative cornerstone of international humanitarian disarmament efforts.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD WORK WITH CIVIL SOCIETY’S EXISTING CAPACITY TO PROVIDE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The government of Canada has a unique opportunity to leverage its history of leadership on the issue of landmines and other indiscriminate weapons, such as the promotion of the Ottawa Treaty and its upcoming 20th anniversary and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to ensure these weapons, whose casualties are overwhelmingly civilians, will be banned. States Parties to the Ottawa Treaty have set 2025 as a goal to “Finish the Job” and with support and political will it is possible to fully eradicate these lethal barriers to development by then.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD LEVERAGE ITS HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP ON HUMANITARIAN DISARMAMENT TO INTEGRATE INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT TREATIES INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At a local level, peace and security comes from a safe environment and a rebuilt community. In post-conflict zones, where peace is fragile and security scarce, mines and ERW threaten the safety of communities and the ability of humanitarian organizations to provide lifesaving risk education and resources. Mine action efforts and the reconstruction of critical infrastructure help to create safe environments and foster positive peace. These efforts include the clearance of mines and clusters in addition to risk education, monitoring of landmine use, casualties, and victim assistance as well as advocacy. ⁴

Mine action not only removes and prevents lethal barriers to development, but it can make important contributions to peacekeeping, peacebuilding, security and stabilization as well as restoring and protecting human

⁴ The term mine action is generally considered to have five pillars: humanitarian de-mining, victim assistance, risk education, monitoring and advocacy.

rights. It is very much a cross-cutting activity. As such it makes significant contributions to Agenda 2030 particularly Sustainable Development Goals 16 but also SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 10.

If implemented effectively cross-cutting approaches can be very effective. In the past Canada's approaches to the implementation of its mine action obligations and goals have included a dedicated landmine fund, a mine action ambassador, focal points (teams) in CIDA (now Development Canada) and DFAIT (now Global Affairs Canada) and the secondment of a senior military officer from the Dept. of National Defence to DFAIT to provide expertise and focus on military to military dialogue. None of these successful strategies currently exist.

Since the creation of the Ottawa Treaty Canada has usually been a major donor to mine action. For many of those years Canada was one of the top five donors in the world but that has not been the case for a number of years. Mines Action Canada has advocated for many years that Canada should contribute one dollar per Canadian per year for mine action in support of the Ottawa Treaty. This reasonable level has been achieved in the past but not in recent years.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD RETURN TO ITS STATUS AS A TOP 5 DONOR TO MINE ACTION

RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES AND DISPLACED PEOPLES

An important change that would improve responses to humanitarian crises is better funding of data collection. The lack of reliable data that humanitarian workers and civil society organizations have when entering conflict zones or post-conflict communities severely affects their ability to properly provide services. A lack of data skews development programs such as landmine victim assistance and can marginalize already vulnerable victims such as women and children. Evidence-based decision making regarding assistance funding can be less than accurate when data is unreliably collected.

In addition to insufficient data, the lack of disaggregated data based on age and gender affects the ability of local program planning to tailor initiatives to be age appropriate or gender specific. This can be seen in the example of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which outlines that victim assistance must be age appropriate, yet often organizations will have no clear data of victim demographics until they arrive on site. This is an issue that must be addressed. With proper funding, civil society can accurately collect disaggregated data and ensure there are not data related barriers to development.

"In Yemen, women cannot receive physiotherapy services from men. Any support to the physical rehabilitation sector needs to take into account the number of women and girls requiring these services to ensure that funding is allocated appropriately and no one is left behind."

Improved data collection is followed by improved cost efficiency. With better and more reliable data, organizations can plan programming with more certainty of needs and required accommodations, instead of preparing for an unknown situation and reworking programming as it is happening. Increasing funding for better data collection would be a small upfront cost that would ensure more cost-effective programming once on the ground.

Already, Canadian organizations including MAC have been deeply involved in data collection and monitoring of the use of banned weapons. This coupled with Canadians' enthusiasm for evidence-based decision making can be seen as a comparative advantage for Canada. With an investment in civil society monitoring and research, Global Affairs

Canada can ensure that development, peace and security programs have the information they need to be most effective. Additionally, funding civil society monitoring and research Canada can provide their partners with the facts needed to advocate for our shared goals. By becoming a leader in funding data collection, Canada is capitalizing on the existing expertise of civil society organizations in Canada and abroad and improving the quality of monitoring and information as a result.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD BE A GLOBAL LEADER IN FUNDING BETTER DATA COLLECTION BY CIVIL SOCIETY INCLUDING DATA DISAGGREGATION

Responding to humanitarian crises and displaced people often calls for emergency assistance. In some regions, security has rapidly decreased and assistance must fast-track programming to fit the pace of the conflict. In these situations funding is necessary for rapid risk education, emergency explosive ordinance disposal and related programs. Ensuring emergency assistance is possible is crucial to preventing civilian casualties and the peacemaking process.

RECOMMENDATION: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUNDING SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO CRISES EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY

Additionally, working to ensure landmines and ERWs are cleared from a community's environment before displaced populations return creates safer environments and facilitates an easier transition for post-conflict reconstruction.

DELIVERING RESULTS

EFFECTIVENESS AND TRANSPARENCY

A clear way to improve efficiency and transparency in international assistance is through long-term funding and strategic partnerships with civil society organizations. Long-term funding is necessary to achieving sustainable results for communities. International assistance cannot simply be a band-aid for larger issues; long-term funding must pair with long-term commitments in order for international assistance to rebuild communities and empower vulnerable populations. When organizations have long-term funding, programming can be tailored to more comprehensive and in-depth assistance. This improves the efficiency of international assistance as well as improving the quality of assistance.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD SHOW INCREASED POLITICAL WILL TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM FUNDING AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

While it has been acknowledged that the goal of 0.7% of GNI is not yet achievable, it is a national commitment and a tool for fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. The target reflects an understanding of the international community that aid spending helps to advance quality of life around the world. It is important to make steps to increase international assistance. International assistance should be increasing every year. The government should take the 0.7% goal seriously and respond with action.

RECOMMENDATION: CANADA SHOULD INCREASE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE SPENDING EACH YEAR WITH THE GOAL OF 0.7% SPENDING

INNOVATION

Innovation does not necessarily mean new practices. Innovative thinking remains innovative over the course of time. The Ottawa Treaty banning landmines was and continues to be innovative international policy that has reduced civilian death, supported peace and facilitated sustainable development. The unique and innovative partnerships that emerged in response to the Ottawa Treaty, partnering international organizations, government and non-governmental organizations are an important part of the unprecedented success in humanitarian disarmament.

Additionally, Canada has innovative research and monitoring being conducted by civil society across the country. The language in the Convention on Cluster Munitions about victim assistance was groundbreaking in the field and an example of innovation. Supporting innovative thinking, in all forms, helps to foster best practices. Canada should work with civil society's extensive and diverse connections to grassroots organizations as a way to create further partnerships in international assistance.

Innovative partnerships share best practices between government and civil society as well as tailoring workloads to capabilities. For example, international monitoring is a task best suited for civil society but it benefits the government by providing evidence to inform decisions about areas of assistance to focus on. Many innovative partnerships were formed between mine action organizations and the government with considerable success and should be maintained in order to continue valuable work.

RECOMMENDATION: NEW AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS SHOULD BE UTILIZED IN HARMONY WITH PROVEN INNOVATION AND BEST PRACTICES

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with civil society are win-win situations. Civil society already has infrastructure and programming background that government can build upon. These partnerships can take many forms including the possibility of strategic partnerships. As well with a strategic partnership model, long-term partnerships between governments and civil society including standing relationships, organizations and government can speak freely as to the advantages and disadvantages of projects and work to improve a system without jeopardizing the relationship.

Strategic partnerships should include resources necessary for standing emergency assistance programs. Situations in conflict can change rapidly and, as mentioned in Responding to Humanitarian Crises and Displaced Peoples, having a standing fund for emergency assistance would improve response time when it is most time sensitive.

It is important for the government to support Canadian civil society so that everyday Canadian citizens can hear the stories of development from Canadian organizations and people. Canadian civil society has a proven track record on engaging Canadians in humanitarian and development issues. These stories are part of engaging citizens in global development as well as in the work of fellow Canadians on issues they care about. Furthermore, Canadian civil society relaying stories of development to Canadian citizens provides transparency and facilitates public engagement. Through the International Youth Internship Program, MAC interns have increased awareness and

support for mine action in Canada, helping to relay information about Canadian involvement in assisting vulnerable populations.

Additionally, Global Affairs Canada should herald the successful partnerships they have with civil society. Creating a model for success will encourage advocacy and further dialogue with the government regarding successful international assistance. This is another area in which Canada has a comparative advantage; Canada has a history of evidence-based decision making and creative partnerships that foster sustainable development.

RECOMMENDATION: SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY SHOULD BE HELD AS MODELS FOR FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS

CONCLUSION

Canada has a proud history of providing international assistance for post-conflict communities specifically in a mine action capacity as well as taking leadership in signing international humanitarian disarmament treaties, including the Ottawa Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which show a commitment to peace and sustainable development. Looking to the future, MAC is encouraged by this review that the government will further show leadership through an improved relationship with civil society allies and support of long-term funding for initiatives that work to reduce civilian harm and create safe and inclusive communities around the world.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of the Ottawa Treaty, Mines Action Canada looks to the government to show sustained political will and diplomatic, financial and human resources to finish the job by the international goal of 2025.

ANNEX OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Women should be seen as essential to the success of international assistance programs
2. Children and Youth should receive age appropriate assistance
3. Canadian youth programs such as the International Youth Internship Program should continue annually to support empowering youth as agents of change and providing professional development opportunities
4. Canada should leverage its position to support more effective environmental mainstreaming policies in Early recovery and post conflict programs
5. Canada should be a capacity builder for communities with damaged infrastructure and environments
6. Capitalize on Canadian diversity and bilingualism as a comparative advantage for peacebuilding
7. Canada should review funding models to expand direct local funding through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
8. Canada should become a constructive state party to the Arms Trade Treaty
9. Canada should work with civil society's existing capacity to provide international assistance
10. Canada should leverage its history of leadership on humanitarian disarmament to integrate international Disarmament treaties into sustainable development
11. Canada should return to its status as a top 5 donor to mine action
12. Canada should be a global leader in funding better data collection by civil society including data disaggregation
13. Emergency assistance funding should be available to organizations in order to respond to crises effectively and efficiently

14. Canada should show increased political will to support long-term funding and strategic partnerships with civil society organizations
15. Canada should increase international assistance spending each year with the goal of 0.7% spending
16. New and innovative ideas should be utilized in harmony with proven innovation and best practices
17. Successful partnerships with civil society should be held as models for future relationships