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United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Twenty-second Meeting of the States Parties
(1 - 5 December 2025)

**Statement under agenda item 9(b)(iii) Report on the progress made to explore the
feasibility of establishing a voluntary trust fund**

[delivered by Ms. Rita Lubis, UNMAS on Thursday, 4 December]

Madam President¹,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)².

Excellencies,

The United Nations is grateful for the efforts of the President and the Working Group to explore the feasibility of establishing a voluntary trust fund to support affected States as per Action 44 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

The United Nations appreciates the opportunity to participate in consultations held by the Working Group, particularly to brief on one of the existing financing mechanisms within the UN system - the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action (UN VTF). I would like to provide some information about the UN VTF and, of course, take this opportunity to thank States who currently contribute or have contributed to the Fund.

¹ H.E. Ms. ICHIKAWA Tomiko, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, President of the Twenty-second Meeting of the States Parties (22MSP).

² The United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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Since its creation in 1994, the UN VTF has managed over US\$ 1.5 billion in donor funding, with over 30 donors supporting mine action programmes in many countries. The Fund has positively impacted the lives of millions of people at direct or indirect risk from mines and other explosive ordnance. In complex, fragile or nascent governmental, financial, and oversight settings, the VTF manages contributions to provide robust financial assurance. The UN VTF is a flexible Fund that can accept both unearmarked and earmarked contributions allocated for specific purposes. Contributions and pledges to the Fund are made voluntarily by governments and intergovernmental organizations. Individuals, private sector or commercial entities – so-called ‘non-traditional donors’ - may also contribute directly to the VTF.

Subject to the availability of funds, the VTF can and has been used for a comprehensive range of activities, such as:

- Providing start-up finances when other sources of funding are not immediately available to cover essential requirements, such as establishment of a coordination mechanism; technical surveys; risk education; training; recruitment of personnel; procurement of vital equipment; critical clearance operations; or victim rehabilitation.
- Bridging funding delays between the launch of an appeal, the donor pledge, and the actual receipt of contributions.
- Supporting the UN role in mine action-related matters, including project and programme delivery, advocacy and outreach initiatives, policy development, and information management.

Given the nature of the activities described above, the Fund can best achieve its primary goals with a strong and balanced level of unearmarked contributions.

In summary, the VTF has proven to be highly effective. We look forward to supporting the Working Group’s deliberations on the feasibility of a trust fund to support affected States and



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stand ready to share our extensive experience with voluntary funding mechanisms for mine action.

Thank you.

END