



European Union

EU Statement on Cooperation and Assistance
Intersessional meetings
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 7-8 June 2018

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania* and the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

The European Union wishes to thank the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for its efforts to assist States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention. The EU welcomes the individualised approach the Committee is implementing in order to give a platform for interested affected States to present their specific challenges and needs to stakeholders, such as mine action operators and donors, following a tailor-made approach. The EU supports similar approaches in other Conventions as well. We welcome the launch of Serbia's and Sri Lanka's platforms during these intersessional meetings, and encourage all relevant stakeholders to pursue such models of cooperation and enhance national ownership.

The EU and its Member States have a long history of support to mine action benefiting nearly all heavily mine-affected countries and regions of the world. In the five years between 2012 and 2016, EU institutions funded mine action for a total of nearly €300 million in 33 mine affected countries, including Croatia, Somalia, Lebanon, Colombia, Lao PDR, Belarus, Angola, Turkey, Libya, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Iraq. In the same period, EU Member States also funded mine action with over €300 million.

To highlight the EU's commitment to mine action, the European External Action Service and the European Commission recently produced a Joint Staff Working Document entitled "The European Union's Support for Mine Action Across the World". This document describes how the EU has been funding mine action, listing the relevant EU funding instruments and the contact details of the competent Commission services. It also presents a selection of representative mine action projects and a comprehensive list of all EU-funded mine action between 2012 and 2016.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The 2017 EU Council Decision continues to provide significant funding to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to assist States Parties on all key aspects of the Maputo Action Plan. National stakeholder dialogues are planned in 10 beneficiary countries in the field of mine clearance and victim assistance. This will contribute to putting into practice the individualised approach, as proposed by the Committee.

In the affected countries, mine action is key to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is up to mine affected countries to connect the Sustainable Development Goals and their development strategies with mine action and make it a cross-cutting issue. The EU is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective into all of its humanitarian mine action work and we continue to support the work of mine affected countries to integrate a gender perspective into their humanitarian mine action policies.

The EU and its Member States will continue to cooperate with and, where possible, extend assistance to those States Parties that most need support in meeting their obligations under the Convention, as well as to affected non-States Parties. This is a shared commitment of all States Parties to the Convention. Furthermore, we will continue coordination with other donors and will cooperate closely with the countries concerned in support of their national mine action plans.