

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings Switzerland's written submission

Matters related to Article 5 implementation

Point 8: With around CHF 4 million a year (valid for 2019 and 2020), Switzerland supports the clearance efforts of the following States Parties: Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Sri Lanka.

Matters related to mine risk education and reduction

Point 1: Switzerland's Mine Action Strategy links the different pillars of mine action with the achievement of broader objectives in the humanitarian, development and peace promotion sectors. Projects financed by Switzerland are, where possible, of an integrated nature, that is, they combine clearance efforts with mine risk education and victim assistance.

Matters related to cooperation and assistance

Point 1: In the framework of its Mine Action Strategy, Switzerland supports both States Parties and States not Parties. In the course of 2019, Switzerland supported States Parties Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Ukraine by financing projects in the domains of clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance, and deploying experts on the ground (around CHF 5.5 million in 2019).

Point 2: An analysis of the different needs of women and men and of boys and girls is an integral part of the design of a mine action project. In this way, gender considerations and the diverse needs of affected communities are taken into account.

Point 3: Where they are in place, Switzerland participates in coordination meetings organized by the affected States, the UN or other donor States. Switzerland aligns its contributions to national priorities and strategies, and to the Humanitarian Response Plans (where relevant). In the framework of the Mine Action Support Group, Switzerland regularly shares information about its engagement in the mine action sector.

Matters related to universalization

Point 4: Whenever possible, Switzerland addresses the topic of the Convention and its universalization during bilateral meetings with the representatives of States not parties. Mine action projects implemented in States not party usually also include activities aimed at bringing the beneficiary State closer to the Convention. Switzerland supports the sponsorship programme which is also a tool to promote universalization. Lastly, a number of non-governmental organizations active in the promotion of the Convention, including among armed non-State actors, are supported by Switzerland.

Point 5: Calling for compliance with the international legal framework and respect for the Convention's norms is one of the priorities of Switzerland's Mine Action Strategy. This is done in the scope of its political bilateral contacts and in multilateral frameworks.