

11MSP

**10 (e), Cooperation and Assistance
Statement by Norway**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. president

I would like to take this opportunity to share our experiences from a mine action project that is quite different from those Norway ordinary supports.

Norway and Ukraine agreed in late 2010 on a project to assist Ukraine in her efforts to get back into compliance with Article 4 of the Convention, by way of upgrading national destruction facilities to handle PFM-1 mines, in accordance with international health, safety and environmental standards. The decision to grant the support was taken early in the year, and thanks to swift and flexible response by Ukrainian authorities the equipment to be purchased was exempted from taxes that would ordinary apply, enabling the operator to make full use of the grant.

The project involved other actors than those we ordinary cooperate within mine action, including the State Space Agency of Ukraine (SSAU) and the Pavlograd Chemical Plant in Ukraine. The project entailed a limited financial contribution from Norway, circa 1 million dollar, but this seemingly paved the way for considerable Ukrainian contributions, supported by NAMSA, for operation of the PFM1 destruction line, transport and security.

In 2011, we have conducted four field visits to Kiev and Pavlograd, together with an expert from the GICHD, and on the most recent trip, a representative from the ICBL. Our embassy in Kiev has been strongly involved in the project throughout the year, from its inception and in the follow-up dialogue. One lesson we have learned from this is that open and frank dialogue between the partners is necessary for success.

For Norway this has been a relatively light-footprint project, with the aim to remove a bottleneck impeding compliance. The grant provided targeted financing of upgrading of a specific section of the destruction line that, if successful, could facilitate the use of existing national capacity and unlock both national and international sources of funding. With the NAMSA and EU agreements in place, and if large-scale destruction of PFM 1 mines at Pavlograd start up soon, it would seem that the project has met its aims. We look forward to Ukraine declaring that it is compliant with stockpile destruction obligations of the Convention as soon as possible.

For us this has been an example that limited but targeted financial contributions applied in innovative and flexible manner can unlock significant national commitments necessary for progress in mine action.

Thank you