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Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction

12th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva,
3-7 December, 2012

Agenda item 10 (f): Cooperation and Assistance

Statement of Sweden

Mr President,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the preparation of our meeting for the excellent arrangements. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election and assure you of our full support. Let me also commend the director and staff of the ISU for their excellent work.

Mr President,

We would like to give some brief information and views on cooperation and assistance from a Swedish perspective.

Over the past ten years, Sweden has contributed financially to mine action with a total amount of between 90 and 100 million Euros – or approximately 130 million US dollars. This refers to mines as well as to ERW, including cluster munitions.

This support is mainly administered by the Swedish International Development Authority, Sida. In recent times, particular attention has been given to the thematic areas of demining and mine awareness. In 2011, activities in six geographic areas were supported: Afghanistan, the DRC, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Libya and South Sudan. The Swedish MFA also gave direct support to mine action projects in Uganda and Georgia in 2011.

For 2012, a complete account of activities carried out by Sida will be available early next year. From the Swedish MFA, support was given to the Cambodian Mine Action Center for deployment of two Mine Detection Dog Teams. Sweden also contributed to the budget of the ISU of the Ottawa Convention, making us the fourth largest contributor in 2012.

In 2012, activities were carried out by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, through ICRC and UNMAS, in the Republic of the Congo and related to the situation in Syria. Sweden also supported MRE in Mali, through seconded expertise from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency to UNICEF.

Our main partners in mine action in 2011 were the Danish Demining Group and the Mines Advisory Group. A substantial part of the support has also been managed by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency. Other Swedish support to mine action was carried out through UNMAS and the OSCE.

Mr President,

My delegation very much appreciates this opportunity to hearing the views of others involved in cooperation and assistance on mine action, and we look forward to continued dialogue and cooperation.

Thank you, Mr President.