



**European Union
Statement by**

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Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

APLC - 13th Meeting of the States Parties

(Geneva, 2-5 December 2013)

**How to enhance international assistance and to increase
resources mobilization**

Geneva, 3 December 2013

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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**EU statement on "How to enhance international assistance and to increase
resources mobilization"**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration: Turkey^{*}, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[†], Montenegro[†], Iceland[‡], Serbia[†], Albania[†], Bosnia and Herzegovina[†], Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

The European Union is pleased about the significant efforts and the good progress made in the past year in our joint fight against the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. We are also aware of the significant remaining challenges and we continue to be committed to assist affected states to implement their Convention obligations.

Through a number of projects under its Council Decision adopted in November 2012, the European Union seeks to enhance the pursuit of the aims of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention by supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014. The projects in progress aim at promoting the universalization of the Convention and its norms, supporting efforts by States Parties to the Convention to implement the victim assistance and mine clearance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan, and demonstrating the on-going commitment of the EU and its Member States to the Convention.

In this context, the European Union has supported the organisation of four regional seminars on victim assistance or mine clearance in Lima, Peru; Dushanbe, Tajikistan; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Kinshasa, DRC. Our High Level Task Force on the universalisation of the Convention comprising HRH Prince Mired of Jordan, HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium and Colombian international celebrity Juanes has already embarked upon high level universalisation missions to engage with leaders of States not Party to the Convention. The European Union also supports the organisation of a high level conference on victim assistance to take place in Medellin, Colombia in April, 2014.

Beyond those projects, the European Union, in addition to the significant contributions made by its Member States, has committed more than 47 million Euros to mine action in heavily affected countries and areas in 2012.

As stated in previous years, we believe that it is only by integrating mine action into our development agenda that we can ensure sustainable results. Thus, the European Union promotes the integration and streamlining of mine action into broader cooperation and

^{*} Candidate country

[†] The Candidate countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[‡] Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

development policies. In order to ensure adequate integration of mine action into bilateral cooperation however, it is necessary that countries prioritize mine action in their requests for general assistance and that they make it a priority in their national indicative programmes. We therefore appeal to all States seeking assistance for mine action to ensure that such an official priority setting is taking place and adequately communicated, also in view of the need to obtain direct national ownership and long-term impact.

Mr. President,

Our efforts will be more effective if we work in close coordination and partnerships with other donors, implementing agencies and the affected countries. We are looking forward to exploring with all stake holders how further coordinated partnerships can be established in order to ensure effective and efficient delivery of aid. In the run up to the next Review Conference in Maputo in 2014, we need to join our efforts to develop further constructive ideas and carry out concrete actions to achieve our common goals with a particular focus on the support of the affected populations. For its part, the EU is ready to do so.

Thank you.