



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Afghanistan Statement on Cooperation and Assistance

13th Meeting of Members of State Parties

To

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Geneva

2 – 5 December 2013

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have established a good working relationship with the mine action programmes of Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, South Sudan and recently with Colombia. The following bilateral cooperation agreements between Afghanistan and these programmes have taken place:

Afghanistan – Tajikistan cooperation in relation to mine action:

- ⇒ Since 2010, Tajikistan has helped Afghanistan to demine its border districts with Tajikistan via Tajikistan's territory. A few of Afghanistan's districts that border Tajikistan are difficult to access from the Afghanistan side due to their mountainous geography but are easily accessible via Tajikistan.
- ⇒ Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding bilateral cooperation in the field of Mine Action has been signed between the Presidents of Afghanistan and Tajikistan – this will further strengthen bilateral mine action related cooperation between these two countries

Afghanistan – Sudan cooperation in relation to Mine Action:

- ⇒ Afghanistan was involved in reviewing and revising Tajikistan's Mine Action Standards. Since the 12th Meeting of the States Parties, Afghanistan has sent its experts four times to Tajikistan to review their standards, and share knowledge and good practices

Afghanistan – South Sudan cooperation in relation to Mine Action:

- ⇒ A delegation from South Sudan Mine Action had an exchange visit to Afghanistan from 16th to 30th September 2012. During their visit, Afghanistan shared with them their experiences in different fields of mine action such as governance, planning, priority setting, monitoring and evaluation and so on
- ⇒ Through skype call conference, Afghanistan shared its experience in relation to development of its extension request with Sudan Mine Action.

Afghanistan - Colombia cooperation in relation to Mine Action:

Recently, Colombia hosted two Afghan Experts. They shared their experience with Colombian Mine Action in the following aspects:

- ⇒ Provided a 5-day Quality Management training including the concept of QM in humanitarian mine action, accreditation of demining NGOs, monitoring, Quality Management System requirements and clearance methodologies.
- ⇒ Shared Afghanistan experience on Demining by Civilian Organizations

- ⇒ Shared Afghanistan experience in development of extension request and clearance operations plans

Afghanistan – Azerbaijan cooperation and Cambodia in relation to Mine Action:

- ⇒ We had some exchange programmes with Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action and Cambodian Mine Action Centre. Just a few days before a team of Afghan experts went to Cambodia for an exchange visit in the field of Victim Assistance