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*[TOP 2.d Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance]*

We thank the Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for the presentation of conclusions and recommendations related to the Committee's mandate that we have just heard.

Austria fully aligns herself with the Statement on Cooperation and Assistance of the representative of the European Union (to be) delivered earlier (later) in this debate. Let me offer a few additional remarks from a national perspective.

International Cooperation and Assistance is indispensable for the success of the Convention. For many States Parties, national implementation is a challenge which they cannot cope with using only their own resources.

The Maputo Action Plan rightly emphasises that successful international cooperation and assistance should be a sustained partnership based on national commitment and ownership of the receiving side, and targeted support by the donor on the other. Importantly, in addition to the classical bilateral recipient donor relationship, the Action Plan encourages States Parties to make better use of the potential for regional and multilateral cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and comprising non-financial support such as sharing national experiences and good practices, resources, technology and expertise to implement the Convention.

Over the past five years, Austria has provided a total of approximately three million euros of financial support for mine action in a number of African, Asian and European countries. Unfortunately due to budgetary restraints the level of our support today is lower than it used to be in former years. Nevertheless, Austria remains committed to contribute to international cooperation and assistance under the Convention.