

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

**14th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva,
30 November - 4 December, 2015**

Statements of Sweden

Agenda item 2.(d): Cooperation and Assistance

Mr President,

Speaking for the first time on behalf of my delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those 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 staff of the ISU for their excellent work.

Mr President,

Sweden stands fully by the statement given by the EU on this topic and would like to give some brief additional information and views on cooperation and assistance from a Swedish perspective.

Humanitarian considerations remain as relevant as ever for mine action. But mine action today is to a lesser extent carried out in the immediate aftermath of armed conflict. It has rather become a more integrated part of States' development efforts, for example to enable agriculture and the build-up of infrastructure. Sweden believes that the national ownership and the political will of the cooperation partner countries are key to achieving sustainable development.

As an example, in Mozambique, venue of last year's Review Conference, Sweden acted in line with this view and contributed, through the UNDP, to a substantial programme of mine action within the framework of Mozambique's 2011-2014 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, which emphasized the importance of addressing the mine contamination problem as an integral part of achieving sustainable economic and democratic development. One important theme of last year's Review Conference in Maputo was that the goal of a mine-free world is possible to achieve, if efforts are sustained. The example of Mozambique itself has shown that this is a real possibility, as the country recently could declare itself to be mine-free. Sweden is proud to have contributed to this achievement.

All in all, Sweden has contributed over 100 million EUR to mine action worldwide over the last decade. Our support, administered mainly by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), has gone to mine action in its wider sense - to clear all Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). In recent years, major support has been

provided to projects and activities in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, beside Mozambique. We have also funded projects in Colombia, Sudan and South Sudan, as well as regionally in Africa, including projects for handling UXO in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the Republic of the Congo. Humanitarian Mine Action has been carried out in Palestine. Awareness and risk education efforts have been supported through partners in UNICEF, UNDP, Geneva Call and the GICHD. We continue to support the Convention's Implementation Support Unit and have provided funding to the ICBL for the Landmine Monitor.

For 2015, a complete account of activities carried out by Sida will be available early next year. From the Swedish MFA, support was given to continue work in Cambodia using Mine Detection Dog Teams, and extending this as a pilot project to Lao PDR and Vietnam in cooperation with the Norwegian People's Aid.

Mr President,

We would also like to recall the study made by the ISU some time ago, on assistance flows related to the health care sector and its linkage to victim assistance. Even if they may not have been recorded as such under mine action programmes, these flows are quite significant and contribute directly or indirectly to the aims of victim assistance.

Sweden doesn't distinguish between the development assistance that we provide to mine or cluster munitions survivors in accordance with the Conventions we are party to, and the support we provide to the health care sector as a whole in mine affected countries. Swedish support to sustainable health care, infrastructure and personnel, and to medical education, training and services in such countries, and as part of their own development strategies, exceeded altogether 100 million EUR over a recent five-year period.

Thank you, Mr President.