

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

**15th Meeting of States Parties, Santiago de Chile,
28 November - 2 December, 2016**

Statement of Sweden

Agenda item 10.(c): Cooperation and Assistance

Madam President,

We would like to start by thanking the countries serving in the Committee for Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for their report. Sweden stands by the statement by the European Union and would like to provide some comments and additional information from a national perspective.

Sweden believes that the national ownership and the political will of the cooperation partner countries are key to achieving sustainable development. Mine action is no exception. It needs to become an integrated part of affected States' development efforts, for example to enable agriculture and the build-up of infrastructure, and will also need to be an integrated part of achieving sustainable economic and democratic development.

Madam President,

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, Myanmar, Libya and Somalia. Awareness and risk education efforts have been supported through partners in UNICEF, UNDP, Geneva Call and the GICHD. For 2016, a complete account of activities carried out by Sida will be available early next year.

We continue to support the Convention's Implementation Support Unit and have provided funding to the ICBL for the Landmine Monitor. From the Swedish MFA, support was also 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.

Madam 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, Madam President.