

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

16th Meeting of States-Parties

Vienna, Austria

Remarks by Ireland on Cooperation and Assistance

Mr President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and would like to add the following in our national capacity. I would like to thank the members of the Committee on Cooperation and Assistance for their report. We welcome findings and conclusions of the report.

The principle of International Cooperation & Assistance is an essential component of realising the aim of a world free of anti-personnel mines by 2025.

The presence of landmines, including anti-personnel mines, constitutes a threat to human security and a serious impediment to development and rehabilitation in post-conflict societies. Moreover, as increasingly witnessed by a variety of actors, landmines pose an often insurmountable obstacle to humanitarian operations, denying access to populations in need.

Ireland has maintained long standing commitment of support to humanitarian mine action programmes and in the ten years to the end of 2016 we have provided €38 million to these programmes. The removal of landmines not only prevents further human casualties, but also frees entire communities from fear, thus paving the way for reconstruction, development, agricultural production, and business opportunities.

Total Irish Aid expenditure for humanitarian demining in 2017 was €1.5 million. This included funding for major programmes of work in Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Somaliland, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam.

Ireland is also proud to support Slovenia's International Trust Fund (ITF) in their capacity building work. In recent years, we have supported programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ukraine and in Columbia.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all our humanitarian mine action work is an important aim for Ireland. Ireland is a proud to support the work of the Implementation Support Unit, and UNDP sponsorship programmes designed to promote gender diversity in the work of the Convention.

Thank You.

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