



European Union

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 17th Meeting of States Parties Geneva, 26-30 November 2018

EU Statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Madam President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

The European Union wishes to thank the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for its efforts to assist States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention. The EU welcomes the conclusions put forward by the Committee.

We welcome the increase in global mine action funding, as reported by the Landmine Monitor, and encourage all donors to maintain this positive trend also in light of our aspiration to achieve an anti-personnel mine free world by 2025.

The EU and its Member States have a long history of support to mine action benefiting nearly all heavily mine-affected countries and regions of the world. In 2017, the EU contracted mine action assistance for over €60 million in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Libya, Nigeria, the Philippines, Syria and Ukraine. Details of these projects have been submitted to the ICBL for publication in this year's Landmine Monitor. Between 2012 and 2016, EU institutions

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

funded mine action for a total of nearly €300 million in 33 mine affected countries. In the same period, EU Member States also funded mine action with over €300 million.

The new brochure released in February entitled "The European Union's Support for Mine Action across the World" reflects our strong commitment to mine action. This comprehensive document lists the relevant EU funding instruments and presents a list of all EU-funded mine action between 2012 and 2016. The publication is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic and can be found in the back of the room.

Last July, the European Commission finalised an evaluation of the impact of 10 years of mine action support by the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), which is the number one EU instrument for mine action assistance. The findings of this evaluation will be taken into account in the revision of the EU guidelines for mine action, which is equivalent to a mine action support strategy. Yesterday, we organised an ad-hoc seminar on mine action donor strategies with a view to collecting views and input for the revision of this EU Strategy. Mine affected countries, donors operators and other stakeholders were invited to exchange information and ideas on how donors can best support mine affected countries. The finalisation of the revision of the EU guidelines for mine action is foreseen next year.

In mine affected countries, mine action is key to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 16.1 and SDG 16.4. The EU would like to encourage all mine affected countries to consider the linkages between the Sustainable Developments Goals, national development strategies and mine action in order to ensure that the challenges are addressed through comprehensive and integrated support. The impact of mine contamination needs to be addressed through many different disciplines including security, humanitarian aid, stabilisation, development, public health and the implementation of treaty obligations. The mine action community should make sure that all these disciplines, where relevant and pertinent, consider mine action as part and parcel of their efforts.

Successful mine action requires a solid national strategy based on correct, and where possible, disaggregated data, and providing clear objectives, timelines and indicators. Elaboration of a national mine action strategy requires capacity and where possible donors should support affected States in this endeavour. The EU supports the individualised approach and other similar platforms for

partnerships between affected States, donors, operators and other stakeholders including the UN, the ICBL and the GICHD. Tools such as the individualised approach can help to ensure national ownership, improve donor coordination and tailor assistance to specific local needs. The EU Council Decision project is fully aligned with this approach.

Madam Chair,

The EU and its Member States will continue to actively support cooperation and assistance for mine action. Furthermore, we will continue coordination with other donors and cooperate closely with the countries concerned in support of their national mine action plans. The EU's support for the implementation and universalisation of the Convention can be seen in the broader context of our interest in achieving a more secure world based on multilateralism and the rules-based international system and our core values which include respect for human rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Thank you, Madam President.