

## Statement by Sweden Agenda Item 9a, 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State Parties APMBC

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### STATEMENT DELIVERED ORALLY

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Sweden would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all those involved in the preparation of this meeting during this difficult time in the context of the current global pandemic.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank Italy for all their work in their role as chair for the Victim Assistance Committee. We look forward to continued work within this committee, and as a senior member of the committee next year we would like to extend our full support to Thailand in the coming year. Furthermore, we would also like to extend a warm welcome to Ecuador and Algeria as new members of the committee.

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

On victim assistance specifically, Sweden has supported the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan's orthopaedic and physiotherapy services in Afghanistan for several years. Our main approach is to provide multi-year funding and currently Sweden is funding mine action in 12 states around the world including Colombia, Libya, Ukraine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. We have also funded projects in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Mozambique to mention a few. We continue to support the Convention's Implementation Support Unit and would like to stress the importance of the State Parties contributions.

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.

Sweden is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective into our mine action work. We continue to support the work of stakeholders in mine action to integrate a gender perspective into their mine action policies. 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 ERW including cluster munitions. It has in recent years been focused primarily on demining, mine awareness, and also advocacy.

Finally, we welcome the Oslo Action Plan, as an important milestone established at last year's review conference, and we look forward to its continued implementation. Victim assistance is key to addressing the long-term effects of anti-personnel mines, and an important means of continuing the important work within the scope of this convention, as well as maintaining progress towards the sustainable development goals.