

Statement by Ambassador Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director

Cooperation and Assistance: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

18MSP APMBC, Geneva, 16-20 November 2020

Mr. President,

The recipe for effective and efficient mine action is well known to our sector and includes strong national ownership as well as sound operations, underpinned by the application of the latest standards, methods and tools.

These key ingredients must go hand in hand with continued, resp. strengthened, international cooperation and assistance.

In this context, the individualized approach promoted within this Convention has seen some success. Still, it could be strengthened further.

The GICHD is committed to promoting a country-focused approach. The Centre continues to allocate part of its resources to the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated country-support packages that are tailored to the local situation and context. The Centre also encourages the sharing of knowledge and experiences between affected countries and assists in establishing and promoting suitable regional frameworks for such cooperation.

The recent decision by Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take advantage of the Individualized Approach initiative are recent examples of how this multi-stakeholder platform can be used to support and foster national programmes, with a view in particular to identifying needs and gaps, actions to be taken as a result of those and resources needed. The Centre has a long history of cooperation with both States and was pleased to offer its support and advice during the discussions held just last week.

Mr. President,

The Oslo Action Plan includes section 8, dedicated to International Cooperation and Assistance, with actions #42 to #47 aimed at strengthening this area of work. Let me reaffirm that the GICHD very much supports the stronger orientation towards results of the APMBC, notably through the Oslo Action Plan. The incorporation of measurable actions and indicators in the OAP is a key step forward towards ensuring that impact (or the lack thereof) can be measured. The Convention is now well equipped to benefit from what I would call a virtuous circle, whereby transparency and accountability lead to the identification of lessons learnt which, in turn, lead to better performance.

Let us now turn the significant potential of such virtuous cycle into reality.

Thank you.