

## EU Delegation to UN Geneva

The European Union is very pleased to see the participation of so many regional actors in today's session.

We believe that a regional push like this one, has the potential to raise awareness of the *Oslo Action Plan*, in particular, on efforts to establish accurate baselines of contamination, develop evidence-based and costed national work plans, provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and at-risk groups, and ensuring multi-year partnerships for implementation.

All these actions are of great importance for the region, and in fact for all regions where states are still implementing mine clearance obligations. This Dialogue is successfully building on Actions 42 to 47 of the *Oslo Action Plan*, "by exploring and/or promoting enhanced cooperation".

In addition, by undergoing this regional exercise, at least two States Parties, Ecuador and Peru, are meeting the objectives of Action 19, by presenting (unofficial) updated plans and projections.

Now we come to the closure of today, so I have the pleasure to introduce some elements of tomorrow's programme. We heard colleagues from Ecuador and Peru so allow me to add a few additional remarks.

One important aspect of tomorrow's discussion will be presentation of the current strategies and work plans for addressing remaining challenges in Ecuador and Peru. Challenges faced in implementation including technical capacity gaps, ways and resources needed to be addressed and to close the gaps.

**Lastly, and equally important, we will look at needs and conditions where south-south cooperation and/or traditional donors could assist in accelerating mine clearance efforts.** At the end of the day tomorrow, we should all have a clearer understanding of the extent of the mine contamination and plans to address it.

Tomorrow, the programme will also provide us with the opportunity to look at a perspective of the donors' states and organisations. We could learn practices for building and/or fostering partnerships to strengthen national efforts, while enhancing opportunities for regional partnership and integration, and the need for transparency and inclusion in national planning.

I want to invite all Organizations and States to share their experiences and/or lessons learnt including on what would be required to complete or partner for completion.

We look forward to a rich three-hour discussion and to welcoming additional speakers including His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan, and partners so that we can have substantive feedback.

For the cooperation and assistance session tomorrow, we invite all States, Parties and not party to the Convention to provide information on how their mine action programmes work. This is not a pledge session, although pledges are always welcome, but more an awareness exercise for Ecuador and Peru. And to our friends and colleagues in the civil society, let me say, we look forward to hearing your feedback to Ecuador and Peru as well.

Let me close the meeting in the same way we opened it:

**A mine-free hemisphere is a noteworthy proposition for those of us who believe in the power of collectively protecting vulnerable communities. Thank you for your participation and see you tomorrow.**