



COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2017/1428 of 4 August 2017

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

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 28 and 31(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Union should work towards a high degree of cooperation in all fields of international relations, in order, inter alia, to preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.
- (2) On 12 December 2003 the European Council adopted a European Security Strategy identifying global challenges and threats, and calling for a rule-based international order based on effective multilateralism and well-functioning international institutions.
- (3) The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction ('the Convention') entered into force on 1 March 1999. It constitutes the only comprehensive international instrument dealing with all aspects of anti-personnel landmines, including their use, stockpiling, production, trade, clearance and victim assistance. Since 1 June 2013, all Member States are party to the Convention and on 1 September 2016, 162 states have expressed their consent to be bound by it.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. To contribute to human security by supporting the implementation of the *Maputo Action Plan 2014-2019* adopted by the States Parties at the Third Review Conference of ('the Convention'), in the framework of the European Security Strategy and in accordance with relevant decisions of the international community, the European Union pursues the following objectives:

- (b) support efforts of States Parties to the Convention to implement the victim assistance aspects of the Maputo Action Plan;

[...]

- (e) demonstrate the ongoing commitment of the Union and its Member States to the Convention and their resolve to cooperate with and extend assistance to those States that need support in meeting their commitments under the Convention, and enhance the leading role of the Union in pursuing the Convention's vision of a conclusive end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

ANNEX

1. Objective

To contribute to human security by supporting the implementation of the *Maputo Action Plan 2014-2019* adopted by the States Parties at the Third Review Conference of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction ('the Convention'), in the framework of the European Security Strategy and in line with relevant decisions of the international community. [...]

2. Description of projects

2.1. Mine clearance: support for the implementation of Action III of the Maputo Action Plan including national planning and reporting in up to five affected States Parties

2.1.1. Project objective

Up to five States Parties to the Convention are supported in the implementation of the mine clearance aspects of the Maputo Action Plan.

2.1.2. Project description

— Support will be provided by the ISU to up to five States Parties in facilitating national stakeholder dialogues. Eligible States Parties have upcoming mine clearance deadlines in 2018, 2019, 2020 and beyond. The Convention's Committee on Article 5 Implementation will be involved in the selection of the recipient States Parties.

— The national stakeholder dialogues will be facilitated by the ISU, in collaboration with stakeholders, such as relevant government officials, representatives from mine-affected populations, mine action donors, including relevant Union entities, mine clearance organisations, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines ('ICBL'), UN agencies and the GICHD. As appropriate, those key actors will be directly involved in the implementation of the project subject to the conditions to be developed in the budgetary impact statement. The dialogues will produce a detailed outcome document highlighting geographically specific information on remaining areas requiring survey and clearance, methodologies to address remaining areas and challenges faced in fulfilling mine clearance obligations and recommendations on overcoming those challenges as well as milestones to address identified challenges. The national stakeholder dialogues will incorporate gender and diversity aspects of mine clearance at the design, management and implementation levels.

— Follow-up actions, in up to five instances, will be undertaken in response to recommendations contained in the outcome documents. Those follow-up actions will provide additional technical support by the ISU (e.g. for drafting/updating of national demining action plans, the development of a project proposal or proposals, etc.).

2.1.3. Project results

— The stakeholder dialogues will provide a detailed outcome document setting out the remaining challenges, with objectives, timelines and recommendations for further action.

— The States Parties selected for the national stakeholder dialogues will be able to articulate the status of implementation of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan as well as to improve their annual reporting to the States Parties on the implementation of their obligations by their deadline.

— The selected States will develop practices in building and fostering partnerships, including with donors and mine clearance organisations, to ensure that they support efforts to fulfil their obligations in as short a time as possible.

— The selected States will be able to better articulate their intentions to fulfil the Maputo Action Plan commitments and their need for support, for example for drafting and updating of national de-mining action plans, the development of a project proposals.

2.1.4. Beneficiaries

— States Parties to the Convention which are in the process of implementing their mine clearance obligations under the Convention.

— Women, girls, boys and men whose lives are affected by the presence or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines, as well their families and communities.

— National experts working on issues relevant to mine clearance.

— States and organisations supporting mine clearance efforts.