



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. [...]

2.2. Victim assistance: support for the implementation of the Victim Assistance actions of the Maputo Action Plan in up to five affected States Parties

2.2.1. Project objective

The Maputo Action Plan states that victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction. The project will support up to five States Parties to embed the victim assistance aspects of the *Maputo Action Plan* in a broader context of national policies on human rights and the rights of persons with disabilities. The project aims at empowering those who are injured by mines or other explosive remnants of war, survivors, indirect victims such as family members of people killed by anti-personnel mines and people living in mine-affected areas, to become active agents in their own development. The national stakeholder dialogues will incorporate gender and diversity aspects of victim assistance at the design, management and implementation levels.

2.2.2. Project description

- Support will be provided by the ISU in up to five affected States Parties to convene national stakeholder dialogues in States Parties that either:
 - (a) have engaged little with victim assistance and therefore would benefit from a stimulus to begin doing so; or
 - (b) have engaged in the effort to implement the victim assistance actions of the Maputo Action Plan and would benefit from a national stakeholder dialogue to promote those implementation efforts.

The Convention's Committee on Victim Assistance will be involved in the selection of the recipient States Parties.

- The national stakeholder dialogues will be facilitated by the ISU, in collaboration with key actors, such as relevant government officials, donors, including relevant Union entities, UN agencies, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ('UNOHCHR'), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munition Coalition ('ICBL-CMC') and disabled persons' organisations. The national stakeholder dialogues will also result in the drafting of a detailed outcome document, developed in consultation with stakeholders, in which challenges and gaps in the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan's victim assistance commitments will be identified, recommendations made to overcome them and objectives set.
- Follow-up action in up to five instances will be undertaken in response to recommendations contained in the outcome documents. Those follow-up actions may involve the provision of additional technical support by the ISU, for example for the revision of national plans, the development of a project proposal or proposals, etc.
- Decision 2012/700/CFSP supported a global conference that was held in Medellin, Colombia, in April 2014, entitled 'Bridges between Worlds' that aimed to advance the international community's understanding regarding the place of victim assistance in broader contexts. As a follow-up, this Decision will enable an international

conference for national experts to be organised by the ISU, in collaboration with key actors such as the UNOHCHR, the relevant Union entities, and ICBL-CMC and disabled persons' organisations, to explore challenges and good practices in integrating victim assistance into the broader contexts of disability and development at the national level. In particular, the international conference will aim at strengthening linkages with efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ('CRPD') and planning processes to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The international conference will build upon the work of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Committee on Victim Assistance and representatives of other relevant bodies such as the Victim Assistance Coordinators of the Cluster Munitions Convention ('CCM') and Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on the Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects ('CCW').

2.2.3. Project results

- National stakeholder dialogues will result in a detailed outcome document identifying challenges and gaps which will provide the selected States with recommendations and concrete steps it can take to address identified challenges in implementing their Maputo Action Plan victim assistance commitments.
- The outcome document will support national policy development and facilitate the dialogue and cooperation with donors and implementing agencies.
- Follow-up actions, in up to five States Parties, to support efforts to overcome the challenges and gaps identified during the national stakeholder dialogues will result in increased capacity of the States Parties to fulfil their Maputo Action Plan commitments for example the revision of national plans, the development of a project proposal or proposals.
- National stakeholder dialogues will create awareness of the global effort and best practices to address the needs and guarantee the rights of survivors through broader frameworks.
- The selected States will be better able to articulate the status of implementation of the Maputo Action Plan as well as to report on plans for its implementation.
- National experts participating in the international conference will have a better understanding of the place of victim assistance in efforts to implement the CRPD and planning processing to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

2.2.4. Beneficiaries

- States Parties to the Convention which have reported responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors.
- Women, girls, boys and men who have fallen victim to landmines and other explosive remnant of war, as well as their family and communities.
- National experts working on issues relevant to victim assistance.