

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional meetings
Geneva, 8-9 June 2017
EU statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Madam Chair,

1. The European Union wishes to thank the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for its efforts to assist States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention and to improve the effective use of resources and international donor coordination. We would like to welcome the individualised approach by the Committee which will help identify and better understand the needs and challenges faced by each of the affected States in the implementation of the Convention and ensure well-targeted, effective and sustainable assistance with a view to fulfilling the aspiration to achieve an anti-personnel mine free world by 2025.
2. The EU and its Member States have a long history of support to mine action benefiting nearly all heavily mine-affected countries and regions of the world. Over the past two decades, the support provided by EU institutions has contributed to some of the Convention's successes, such as achieving more universal adherence and promoting post-conflict reconstruction, development and stability.
3. In 2016, the EU signed contracts for new or continued support for mine action in Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Syria and Ukraine, amounting to a committed total of more than 55 million Euros so far. The EU also continues to support mine action in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Philippines. The projects cover the whole scope of mine action: clearance, stockpile destruction, victim assistance, risk education, advocacy and capacity building. Apart from our significant assistance in mine action, the EU also supports the stabilisation processes in affected states to set up or update national mine action strategies and operational clearance plans, in cooperation with the UN and other donors and actors. A gender based approach, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, is part of our humanitarian actions.
4. Back in 2012, EU Ministers adopted a Council Decision to support universal adherence to the Ottawa Convention and implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan with concrete activities worth of more than 1 million Euro until 2015. The EU will soon adopt a new similar Council Decision to support efforts of States Parties to implement the mine clearance, victim assistance and stockpile destruction aspects of the Maputo Action Plan and to promote the universalisation of the Convention.