

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

**13th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva,
2-5 December, 2013**

Agenda item 11h: Cooperation and Assistance

Statement of Sweden

Mr President,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the preparation of our meeting for the excellent arrangements. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election and assure you of our full support. Let me also commend the director and staff of the ISU for their excellent work.

Mr President,

Sweden stands fully by the statement given by the EU on this topic and would like to give some brief additional information and views on cooperation and assistance from a Swedish perspective.

Over the past ten years, Sweden has contributed financially to mine action with a total amount of around 100 million Euros. This refers to mines as well as to ERW, including cluster munitions.

This support is mainly administered by the Swedish International Development Authority, Sida. In recent times, particular attention has been given to the thematic areas of demining and mine awareness. In 2012, activities in five geographic areas were supported: Afghanistan, the DRC, Iraq, Somalia and South Sudan. In addition, support was given to the GICHD, Geneva Call and UNICEF for projects and activities involving awareness, advocacy and mine risk education.

For 2013, a complete account of activities carried out by Sida will be available early next year. From the Swedish MFA, support was given to continued work in Cambodia using Mine Detection Dog Teams. Sweden also this year contributed to the budget of the ISU of this Convention.

Sida's main partners in mine action in 2012 were the Danish Demining Group and the Mines Advisory Group. A substantial part of the support has also been managed by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, mainly working through UNMAS and including seconded expertise.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the ISU for its study earlier this year on assistance flows related to the health care sector and its linkage to victim assistance. Even if they may not have been recorded as such under mine action programmes, these flows are quite significant and contribute directly or indirectly to the aims of victim assistance.

Mr President,

My delegation very much appreciates this opportunity to hearing the views of others involved in cooperation and assistance on mine action, and we look forward to continued dialogue and cooperation.

Thank you, Mr President.