

**Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties to the  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Santiago de Chile, December 2016**

**EU Statement on Cooperation and Assistance**

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

Let me thank the Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for the presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee and for their work over this past year. International cooperation and assistance represents a shared commitment to assist States Parties in fulfilling their obligations. The European Union remains committed to supporting States Parties to this end.

The EU concurs with the view of the Committee that, in order to progress towards the 2025 objectives, States Parties should engage in individualised tailor-made approaches. The Maputo Action Plan stresses that mine action programmes should be informed by accurate information on contamination and the socio-economic impact of anti-personnel mines. This information is specific for each mine affected country. There is no one-size fits all approach. In this spirit the Council of the European Union is developing a project with the objective to enable the ISU to support national planning and reporting on mine clearance in up to five affected States Parties that have upcoming mine clearance deadlines in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The project will also support States Parties to embed the victim assistance aspects of the Maputo Action Plan in an integrated policy linked with national policies on human rights and

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\*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

the rights of persons with disabilities. In order to advance towards universalisation of the Convention, the project will also support the Presidency of the Convention and a High Level Task Force to engage States not Parties at a high level. Finally the project will support States Parties in reaching their commitments with regard to stockpile destruction.

National ownership remains a key facilitator for effective mine action. A comprehensive, up-to-date and broadly supported national mine action plan, developed by the government of a mine –affected country in dialogue with donors, civil society and implementing agencies is essential to coordinate mine action efforts. Mine-affected countries should prioritise mine action in their requests for assistance. But there's also need for a regional approach. Anti-personnel mine issues and mine action are often a cross-border problem. The EU considers therefore that regional organisations may make an important contribution to facilitate mine action between neighbouring States. This cooperation has the potential to be more cost effective and provide useful confidence-building measures between neighbouring countries or regions.

The EU and its Member States continue to provide significant contributions to mine action projects in heavily affected countries and areas of the world. In 2015 the EU signed new contracts to support mine action Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Colombia, Gaza strip, Guinea (Conakry), India, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Philippines, Syria and Ukraine, amounting to a committed total of more than 37 million Euro. EU support is provided by the European Commission's Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DEVCO), the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), the Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). The projects cover the whole scope of mine action: clearance, stockpile destruction, awareness raising and risk education, advocacy and capacity building. Besides projects in third countries, the EU has also invested more than 20 million Euro via its research programmes in research and development of innovative equipment for identification and clearance of mines. The results of these projects were presented at last years MSP in Geneva.

The European Union will continue to cooperate with and, where possible, extend assistance to those States Parties that most need support in meeting their commitments under the

Convention, and to affected States Non-Parties. This will continue to be carried out in coordination with other donors and in close cooperation with the countries concerned as part of their national mine action plans

Thank you.