



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

17th Meeting of States-Parties

Geneva, Switzerland

29 November 2018

Statement by Ireland on Cooperation and Assistance

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Madam President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union; I will add the following remarks in our national capacity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for their efforts over the last year, and to thank them for the conclusions and recommendations circulated last month.

Ireland welcomes these conclusions and particularly the focus on the Individualised Approach to cooperation and assistance. We consider it crucial to tailor assistance to the unique needs of the receiving State and to work with those States to ensure assistance is as effective as it can be. We are also supportive of the Committee's efforts to coordinate with the Committee on Victim Assistance.

Madam President,

International cooperation and assistance is a core component of the necessary efforts to achieve the aim of a world free of anti-personnel mines by 2025. The presence of landmines, including anti-personnel mines, constitutes a threat to human security and a serious impediment to development and rehabilitation in post-conflict societies. Moreover, landmines, particularly anti-personnel landmines, can pose a challenging obstacle to humanitarian relief operations, restricting access to populations in need and significantly increasing the costs of such operations.

Ireland maintains its long-standing to humanitarian mine action, having provided €39.5 million in funding for demining between 2006 and 2017 and allocated €2.5 million in 2018. In 2017, our funding contributed to major projects in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Somalia, Vietnam and

Zimbabwe. Ireland has also recently provided targeted funding to assist with demining in Palau.

The removal of landmines prevents casualties, creates a pathway for humanitarian assistance and frees communities from fear. It also paves the way for these communities to develop their land and create agricultural and economic opportunities. Thus, humanitarian demining forms a key part of our efforts in achieving the goals set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all our humanitarian mine action work is an important aim for Ireland. We are pleased to have continued our support for the UNDP sponsorship programme, which promotes gender diversity in the work of the Convention and other disarmament instruments. We also recently provided funding to Mines Action Canada's Mine Action Fellows program, which supports capacity building for young women interested in demining activities related to landmines, cluster munitions and other indiscriminate weapons, in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries.

Ireland continued to support the work of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit in 2018; we recognise the crucial work done by the ISU in supporting the implementation and universalisation of the Convention and hope to see a large number of states continue to support the ISU in the coming years.

Thank you for the floor, Madam President.