

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

**17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva,
26-30 November, 2018**

Statement by Sweden

Agenda item 9 (c): Cooperation and Assistance

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 and the great hospitality shown. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election and assure you of our full support. Let me also commend the staff of the ISU for their excellent work.

Mr President,

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

Sweden believes that the national ownership and the political will of the cooperation partner countries are key to achieving sustainable development. Mine action is no exception. It needs to become an integrated part of affected States' development efforts, for example to enable agriculture and the build-up of infrastructure.

Under the heading "Finish the Job", the International Campaign to Ban Landmines has noted that the promise of the Ottawa Convention will be fulfilled when the norm against use of antipersonnel mines is universal, and when States Parties to the treaty have fully implemented their key obligations. One important theme of the past Review Conference in Maputo was that the goal of a mine-free world is possible to achieve if efforts are sustained.

All in all, Sweden has contributed over 100 million EUR to mine action worldwide over the last decade. Our support, administered mainly by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), has gone to mine action in its wider sense - to clear all Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). In recent years, major support has been provided to projects and activities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Myanmar, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria. Awareness and risk education efforts have been supported through partners in UNICEF, ICRC, Geneva Call and the GICHD. For 2018, a complete account of activities carried out by Sida will be available early next year.

We continue to support the Convention's Implementation Support Unit and have provided funding to the ICBL for the Landmine Monitor. From the Swedish MFA, support was also given to continue work in Southeast Asia using Mine Detection Dog Teams, and extending this as a pilot project to Lao PDR in cooperation with the Norwegian People's Aid.

Mr President,

We would also like to recall the study made by the ISU some time ago, 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.

Sweden doesn't distinguish between the development assistance that we provide to mine or cluster munitions survivors in accordance with the Conventions we are party to, and the support we provide to the health care sector as a whole in mine affected countries. Swedish support to sustainable health care, infrastructure and personnel, and to medical education, training and services in such countries, and as part of their own development strategies, exceeded altogether 100 million EUR over a recent five-year period.

Thank you, Mr President.