



European Union

EU Statement on Cooperation and Assistance 16th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Vienna, 18-21 December 2017

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

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. The EU welcomes the conclusions put forward by the Committee on the individualised approach and the platforms for partnerships. These tools can help us to base our assistance activities on the specific needs and challenges faced by affected States, ensure national ownership and improve donor coordination. It is important to ensure tailor-made, effective and sustainable assistance in order to fulfil the aspiration to achieve an anti-personnel mine free world by 2025.

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.

In the five years between 2012 and 2016, EU institutions funded mine action for a total of €300 million in 33 mine affected countries, including Croatia, Somalia, Lebanon, Colombia, Lao PDR, Belarus, Angola, Turkey, Libya, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iraq. In the same period, EU Member States also funded mine action with over €300 million.

The recently adopted EU Council Decision will support the Implementation Support Unit in assisting States Parties to implement the Convention. National stakeholder dialogues will be facilitated in the field of mine clearance and victim assistance. This will contribute to putting into practice the individualised approach, as proposed by the Committee.

In the affected countries, mine action is key to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is up to mine affected countries to connect the Sustainable Developments Goals and

* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

their development strategies with mine action and make it a cross-cutting issue. Gender mainstreaming is another important horizontal priority in mine action.

The EU and its Member States 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, as well as to affected non-States Parties. This is a shared commitment of all States Parties to the Convention. Furthermore, we will continue coordination with other donors and cooperate closely with the countries concerned in support of their national mine action plans. We welcome the seven per cent increase in global mine action funding, as reported by the Landmine Monitor, and encourage all donors to maintain this positive trend.

Thank you, Mr. President