



**Seventh Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel
Mine Ban Convention**

Geneva, 1 March 2022

EU Statement

Madam President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union.

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

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you Madam Chairperson on assuming the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for the 2022. We look forward to working with you closely. You can count on our full support.

The European Union welcomes this seventh consecutive Pledging Conference and hopes to see a successful mobilization towards the effective implementation

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

of this Convention and, more generally, towards the sustainable financing of humanitarian mine action.

The EU and its Member States have a long history of support for mine action that benefits nearly all heavily mine-affected countries and regions of the world. The assistance provided by the EU in 2021 amounts to more than 87 million EURO, contributing to various programmes in 20 mine affected countries, such as the recent projects in Armenia and Azerbaijan (risk education, victim assistance and mine clearance), Colombia (mine clearance and rehabilitation of former combatants), Libya, Somalia, Ukraine and Yemen.

Madam President,

The 7th Pledging Conference provides an opportunity to renew and strengthen our collective commitment to the comprehensive prohibition of anti-personnel mines, towards the goal of a mine-free world by 2025, and to enhance cooperation and assistance for mine action. The Meeting of State Parties held in November last year testified the progress was made by mine-affected countries to fulfill their demining obligations, to identify remaining and emerging challenges, and to assist victims. This momentum must be maintained.

Therefore, the EU will remain committed to be part of this community and to support the implementation of this Convention towards our goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines. The long-standing history of commitment of the EU and EU Member States to humanitarian demining is reflected in many ongoing development partnerships and in contribution of over €800 million to humanitarian mine action in the past 6 years.

Moreover, the EU welcomes the individualised approach format that the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance implements in order to give a platform for interested affected States Parties to present their specific challenges and needs to relevant stakeholders, including donors and mine

action operators. We encourage all relevant stakeholders to engage with such models of international cooperation and enhance national ownership. Cooperation and assistance helps States in need to implement and meet their national obligations.

Madam, President,

The latest Council Decision CFSP/2021/257 in support of the Oslo Action Plan, adopted on February 18, 2021 provides over 2.6 million EUR for an extended period of 4 years with the objective to contribute to the full implementation of the Oslo Action Plan and its concrete actions. The EU Council Decision carries out a variety of universalization efforts. These include high-level visits, technical meetings and/or workshops, sponsorship of relevant officials from target States to attend Convention meetings, and ambassadorial-level meetings at the United Nations headquarters or any of its subsidiary regional headquarters. In the same vein, it will extend its support to States via national and/or regional stakeholders dialogues.

In this regard, we wish to thank the Director of the ISU and his excellent team for the exemplary implementation of the EU project and we will continue to support the ISU in its endeavors.

Madam President,

In conclusion, we want to take this opportunity to once again encourage all States Parties to contribute to mine action, including to the work of the Implementation Support Unit, which is critical to the functioning of the Convention.

Thank you.