

Intersessional Meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
20-22 June 2022, Geneva

Statement by Sweden

Mr. President-designate,

Please let me start by congratulating you, Ambassador Ayala Meléndez, on your assumption of this important position. Although we regret Ambassador Arango Olmos' resignation, and we wish her all the best, we are very grateful for your readiness to take on the role as President-designate of the upcoming twentieth Meeting of States Parties. I can assure you of the full support from the Swedish delegation.

Sweden stands fully by the statements [to be] delivered by the EU. Allow me to add a few remarks from a national perspective.

As a state party to this Convention, let me reiterate Sweden's position: we stand fully behind the global ban on anti-personnel mines and we condemn their use by any actor, whether a State or non-State actor, anywhere, at any time. We call on all States that have not yet done so to join this Convention without further ado.

Mr. President-designate,

We meet here today in the shadow of Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, which is unprovoked, unjustifiable, and illegal. Sweden condemns the aggression by Russia in the strongest possible terms. It is a flagrant violation of international law, including the UN Charter. We are appalled by Russia's use of anti-personnel mines on Ukrainian soil, and we call on Russia to immediately cease using this inhumane weapon, which poses a serious threat to civilians and hinders humanitarian access. We stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and we commend the Ukrainian people's strength, courage and resistance.

International assistance is a key part of this Convention. Sweden continues to support several States, including Ukraine, as well as other stakeholders in clearing mines, raising awareness, supporting victims, educating on risks and advocating for mine action. Continued efforts are crucial for achieving international peace and security, as well as realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are convinced that the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and diversity

considerations into mine action programming is key for successful implementation, as also reflected in the Oslo Action Plan.

Lastly, let me reiterate that Sweden attaches great importance to the financial sustainability and predictability of the Convention. We call on all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time, and we fully support the Chair's continued work on a draft decision on financial matters to be considered by the 20th Meeting of States Parties.

Thank you.