

**Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties
of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

20-24 November 2023, Geneva

**Agenda item 8. General exchange of views
National Statement by Sweden**

Mr. President,

Sweden would like to start by congratulating you, dear Ambassador, on your appointment as President of this Meeting of the States Parties. We can assure you of the full support from the Swedish delegation.

Sweden stands fully by the statements delivered by the European Union. Please allow us to add a few remarks from a national perspective.

Mr. President,

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is a key achievement for international disarmament, peace and security, and this meeting will be an important milestone since we are approaching the final year of implementation of the Oslo Action Plan and the Fifth Review Conference in 2024. Sweden's position remains clear: 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 delay.

Considering the humanitarian goals of the Convention, we cannot look away from Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked, and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, including the UN Charter. Sweden condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms and demands that Russia respects international law, including international humanitarian law, and that Russia immediately and unconditionally withdraws all its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine. We are appalled by Russia's use of anti-personnel mines and other explosive weapons in Ukraine, with devastating, long-lasting effects.

Mr. President,

International assistance is a key part of this Convention. Sweden continues to support several States, as well as other stakeholders in clearing mines, raising awareness, supporting victims, educating on risks and advocating for mine action. Last year, Sweden contributed with over 126 million Swedish crowns to Mine Action. Our joint efforts remain crucial for international peace and security, as well as for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, we have and will continue to scale up our support to mine action in Ukraine. Since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, Sweden has provided equipment and personnel support by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency through the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism and other partners. We have also adopted a strategy for Sweden's reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine for the coming five years.

Mr President,

Sweden reiterates the importance of ensuring financial stability of the Convention and its Implementation Support Unit. We fully support the President's efforts to improve the financial situation during this Twenty-first Meeting of States Parties, and Sweden calls on all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

Lastly, let me reiterate that Sweden is a firm champion of gender equality. We believe that by applying a gender perspective to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, we can improve our collective work and strengthen international peace and security.

Thank you