



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**  
**Fifth Review Conference**  
**Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024**  
**EU Statement on Victim Assistance**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States.

The candidate countries Türkiye, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania<sup>1</sup>, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova as well as the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

Mr. President,

The European Union has been for decades resolutely engaged in supporting mine victims and persons with disabilities through its policies and assistance.

The EU proudly financially supported the Third Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Other Explosive Ordnance. We thank Cambodia for hosting this important event in October last year. The Conference was a great opportunity to raise awareness about the needs for greater inclusion of mine survivors, notably persons with disabilities, and to create equal opportunities to all. In the same vein, we supported Regional Victim Assistance Dialogue, hosted by Slovenia, which took place last August.

Mr. President,

As long as anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature and explosive remnants of war, continue to affect the lives of millions of civilians across the world, the European Union will continue to engage. The European Union recognises the social, economic and developmental impact of those weapons, and will continue to work through mine clearance, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, and universalisation efforts among others to achieve a world free of anti-personnel mines. Since the last Review Conference of the Convention in 2019, the EU has remained a major donor to mine action across globe, having

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<sup>1</sup> North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

contributed over 174 million EUR since 2023 to humanitarian mine action, including 27 million EUR specifically for victim assistance.

Regarding victim assistance, we will support full, equal, effective, and non-discriminatory participation of mine victims and survivors in society. The EU will continue to provide sustained and continuous assistance to victims in order to fulfil their rights in line with relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In this regard, mainstreaming a gender perspective into its mine action work, supporting the work of stakeholders and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into their humanitarian mine action policies remains a top priority for the EU.

The European Union has been engaged in favour of mine victims and persons with disabilities through its policies and assistance, in particular in the implementation of the Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/257<sup>2</sup> which provides for national stakeholder dialogues to encourage parties responsible for the wellbeing of mine-affected communities and survivors to better address the challenges they face through strengthened dialogue and partnerships. Those dialogues will seek to support States Parties in strengthening their multi-sectoral efforts in ensuring that the victim assistance implementation is in line with relevant provisions of the CRPD. The EU allocated 2.6 million EUR to the ISU in the period 2021-2025 to contribute to the full implementation of the Oslo Action Plan and its concrete actions, including support to States Parties via national and/or regional stakeholders dialogues. The EU welcomes the ISU activities in this regard and will continue to provide its support through the dedicated fund and projects under a new Council Decision.

The EU encourages to develop policies to best assist mine victims and survivors in a non-discriminatory manner addressing the specific needs of all and by leaving no one behind. We also encourage commitments by all States Parties to fully implement and complete their obligations under the Convention, including by taking appropriate assistance measures beyond mine clearance, when they are in a position to do so, to ensure social and economic rehabilitation of mine victims.

We underline the necessity to provide effective and efficient context specific emergency medical care and early rehabilitation services to new casualties and improve national capacities through training, as well as to ensure mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected

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<sup>2</sup> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/ 257 of 18 February 2021 in support of the Oslo Action Plan for the implementation of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

families have access to psychological and psychosocial support services, including to mental health, in line with the New Action Plan to be adopted by the Conference.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude, that as long as there are victims and survivors, the EU will provide sustained and continuous assistance to them in order to fulfil their rights. We encourage all international stakeholders to continue to provide funding and support to States Parties with reported mine victims to support capacity building, and we call on all States Parties to redouble their efforts and to fully implement relevant actions of the new, Siem Reap-Angkor, Action Plan.

Thank you, Mr. President