



**Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

STATEMENT

delivered by

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at the

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Fifth Review Conference, Siem Reap,
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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. President,

As this is first time Sweden takes the floor, I would like to take a moment to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election and assure you of my delegation's full support at this conference.

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union on this agenda item. Allow me to offer some additional remarks from a Swedish perspective.

Mr. President,

Sweden recognizes that international cooperation and assistance are critical elements to realize the humanitarian goals of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Sweden has long been an active party to the convention, as a major donor to various Mine Action organizations and by contributing with expert competence through the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and the Swedish Armed Forces, with employees participating on-site in demining operations in various operations around the world.

Over the last ten years, Sweden has contributed with well over 90 million USD to Mine Action in states most affected by anti-personnel mines, and our strong global engagement continues.

Mr President,

Sweden believes that national ownership and political will of partner countries is key to achieve sustainable development. Sweden's support to Cambodia on Mine Action is a good example of this. Twenty years ago, Sweden supported the Cambodian Mine Action Centre with mine detection dogs. This was a successful intervention where 50 dogs were handed over to Cambodia and the capacities to manage these assets were enhanced. Since then, Cambodia has shared its knowledge with other affected states, most recently with Ukraine.

Mine Action needs to become an integrated part of affected States' development efforts, for example to enable agriculture and the build-up of infrastructure. Sweden encourages countries who have not developed national Mine Action platforms to do so. We also hope that state parties will continue efforts to integrate a gender perspective into their policies and efforts on Mine Action.

Mr President,

Sweden recognizes that joint efforts to support Mine Action contributes to peace and stability. 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 43 million dollars to these efforts, including equipment and personnel support through the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism and implementing partners. We have also adopted a five-year Strategy for Sweden's reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine, through which we support work to clear and map contaminated areas and provide assistance to civilians.

Mr President,

Anti-personnel mines affect civilians in a disproportionate way and impedes socio-economic development in post conflict areas. Sweden acknowledges that providing support for victim assistance with respect for diverse experiences and needs, is important to address the long-term effects of anti-personnel mines and achieve objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr President,

Lastly, Sweden would like to underscore the work carried out by the ISU to enhance the implementation of the convention by assisting state parties in a cooperative manner. To support these endeavors, Sweden has doubled our contribution to the ISU, and we would like to stress the importance of the State Parties contributions.

Thank you.