

## **Intervention on behalf of the Committee of Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance**

- Türkiye has the pleasure of representing the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, which is Chaired by Denmark and includes representatives from Cameroon and Switzerland. Unfortunately, the Chair could not join us today but has asked Türkiye as the senior member to offer a few remarks on the Committee's behalf.
- The Committee was established in order to assist and support the States Parties to effectively implement Article 6 the cooperation and assistance, as ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines is a shared commitment.
- Cooperation and assistance have always been one of the main commitments of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. In fact, without Cooperation and Assistance a number of State Parties would not have reached their completion goals. The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan reiterates that while each State Party is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, the States Parties stress that enhanced cooperation can support implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible. This includes sharing lessons learned and best practices.
- In this regard, the President of the Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, the Netherlands, established the informal Cooperation and Assistance Fund with the aim to "explore opportunities for cooperation", including "cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lesson learned."
- This is in line with Action 45 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan which encourages States Parties to "Explore opportunities for international, regional, and bilateral cooperation including between affected States Parties or triangular cooperation for the voluntary sharing of national experiences and good practices."
- Last year the Cooperation and Assistance Fund had its first pilot project which included an exchange between the recently established Nigerian Mine Action Center to the Turkish Mine Action Centre. This exchange visit was carried out from 2-8 November 2024. The exchange visit included 4 delegates from Nigeria from the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The exchange visit provided Nigeria with an overview of the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Centre as well as practical information on how the Turkish Mine Action Centre carries out its implementation activities regarding survey, clearance, mine risk education and reduction and victim assistance. For those that attended the Fifth Review Conference you would have heard from Nigeria and Türkiye reporting on this exchange visit.
- The Committee is currently seeking feedback from both Nigeria and Türkiye on the visit in order record lessons learned with the aim of improving, where relevant, the execution of the Cooperation and Assistance Fund.

- However, initial feedback was extremely positive and demonstrates the importance of exchanging experience in implementation of the Convention.
- In this connection, as the CAF is funded through voluntary contributions, we wish to call upon those States and organizations that are in the position to do so to contribute to this Fund.
- Depending on available funding, the CAF would provide financial support (5'000 CHF – 10'000 CHF) to assist the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt through study visits or sponsoring of experts to third countries.
- The current status of the CAF could support one more study visit. We would ask that you please contact ISU for further information on how you could make a contribution to the fund or if your State would like to take advantage of the support offered by the CAF.
- Thank you Madam President for inviting the Committee to offer a few remarks.