

APMBC National Statement

Cooperation & Assistance

President,

Ireland takes this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for their ongoing and important work as well as for their report on activities and priorities for implementation over the last year.

Ireland particularly welcomes the Committee's efforts to strengthen the implementation of its mandate to encourage and support the establishment of national mine action platforms. These platforms, when fully utilised, should strengthen the Individualised Approach to cooperation and assistance.

President,

Ireland reaffirms that for the continued success of the Convention and to achieve a world free of anti-personnel mines, international cooperation and assistance must remain a core component of our collective efforts. Anti-personnel mines threaten lives and livelihoods and are a serious impediment to socio-economic and sustainable development and rehabilitation in post-conflict societies.

Ireland has a long-standing record of providing financial and operational assistance and support to humanitarian mine action. At a time when funding for the sector is facing challenge, Ireland has maintained its related contributions. Since 2006, Ireland has provided some €70 million in funding for humanitarian demining, on clearance, risk education, capacity building, and victim assistance. This funding has contributed to projects in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

President,

Humanitarian demining is essential for achieving the goals set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The removal of landmines begins the process of mitigating and reversing long-lasting socio-economic consequences arising from the use of landmines for survivors and victims, families and communities.

Ireland believes that diverse perspectives and gender-responsive approaches should be mainstreamed across all humanitarian mine action work. We encourage all States Parties to bring these to bear when assessing the implementation of their humanitarian responses to mine action.

Finally, President,

Ireland emphasises the vital role that the Implementation Support Unit plays in relation to the implementation and universalisation of the Convention. Ireland financially supports the work of the ISU and we will continue to do so: we call on States Parties to ensure the ISU is sustainably financed to perform its critical duties to the fullest extent.

Thank you