

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

**Fourth Review Conference
Oslo, 26-29 November 2019**

Agenda Item 7 i) Cooperation and Assistance Austria Statement

Mr. President,

Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance recognizes the right of each State Party to seek and receive assistance from other States Parties in order to fulfil its treaty obligations. International Cooperation and Assistance is one of the signature mechanisms of our Convention. Efficient and effective use of funds is critical to achieving the goals and objectives of our convention.

There is no one size fits all in mine action. Austria fully shares the emphasis the Norwegian Presidency on increasing national ownership. We thus welcome country tailored effort and engagement particularly through the individualized approach to clearly identify needs and challenges as well as opportunities and thus to increase efficacy. We hope that these country specific approaches will lead to increased progress on the respective implementation of the Convention. Given the long standing pattern of financing challenges, it seems high time to explore alternative sources of funding.

When it comes to funding mine action, Austria places particular importance on victim assistance and mine risk education. Most recently Austria contributed EUR 500.000 to projects in Ukraine and 2 Million Euros to mine action in Syria.

Mr. President,

Austria fully supports the actions related to cooperation and assistance presented in the draft Oslo Action Plan. We particularly welcome the objectives to strengthen national ownership through national coordination and through clear, evidence based national strategies and work plans. Likewise, the emphasis put on Article 7 reports and concrete resource mobilisation plans with a view to increase transparency and information dissemination, will help States Parties to increase cooperation in the upcoming years.