

Mr. President,

Sweden believes that the national ownership and the political will of the cooperation partner countries are key to achieving sustainable development. Mine action is no exception. It needs to become an integrated part of affected States' development efforts, for example to enable agriculture and the build-up of infrastructure. We encourage countries who have not developed national mine action platforms to do so.

In many affected countries, mine action is also key to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that regard, we welcome the UN Secretary General's agenda for disarmament which makes clear connections to the sustainable development goals. Sweden is also committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective into our mine action work. We continue to support the work of stakeholders in mine action to integrate a gender perspective into their mine action policies. All in all, Sweden has contributed over 100 million EUR to mine action worldwide over the last decade. Our support, administered mainly by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), has gone to mine action in its wider sense - to clear all ERW including cluster munitions. It has in recent years been focused primarily on demining and mine awareness, also advocacy. Our main approach is to provide multi-year funding and currently Sweden is funding mine action in 13 states around the world including Colombia, Libya, Ukraine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.. We have also funded projects in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Mozambique to mention a few. We continue to support the Convention's Implementation Support Unit and would like to stress the importance of the State Parties contributions.

Mr President,

We would also like to recall the study made by the ISU some time ago, on assistance flows related to the health care sector and its linkage to victim assistance. Even if they may not have been recorded as such under mine action programmes, these flows are quite significant and contribute directly or indirectly to the aims of victim assistance.

Sweden doesn't distinguish between the development assistance that we provide to mine or cluster munitions survivors in accordance with the Conventions we are party to, and the support we provide to the health care sector as a whole in mine affected countries. Swedish support to sustainable health care, infrastructure and personnel, and to medical education, training and services in such countries, and as part of their own development strategies, exceeded altogether 100 million EUR over a recent five-year period.

Thank you, Mr President.