

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

(Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom)

Excellencies, dear colleagues, it is a pleasure for Sweden to take the floor as Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. Sweden has had the pleasure of serving as Chair of this Committee during 2019. We have worked together with Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

The Committee was established by the Third Review Conference in Maputo in 2014. Its purpose is to assist States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention concerning International cooperation and assistance. The Committee was mandated by the States Parties to promote cooperation and assistance, including by organizing or encouraging the organization of multilateral, regional or national dialogues on this topic. It was also mandated to facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance.

Throughout the Committee's work, three key elements have been raised:

- Firstly, the importance of national ownership. National ownership including the development of evidence-based work plans, create an enabling environment for cooperation and assistance;
- Secondly, the importance of strong partnerships between States in a position to provide assistance and those requesting assistance; and
- Thirdly, the importance of the exchange of information and regular ongoing national dialogue between stakeholders.

To promote these important elements and in preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> review conference the Committee's work has focused on four main areas - the individualized approach, the National Mine Action Platforms, increasing resources and information exchange.

1. The committee has continued to work with the individualized approach which offers States Parties a platform to share their remaining challenges

and requirements for assistance and to promote partnerships. Since the Third Review Conference 10 States Parties have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach. Yesterday, we were pleased to co-host a well-attended individualized approach event with Cambodia.

2. Furthermore, in preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> review conference here in Oslo, the committee has worked on a proposal for a new concept, the so-called National Mine Action Platforms. We wish to thank all those here today, States Parties as well as civil society organisations, who have contributed to this work. When evaluating the individualized approach, and in conversation with many of you, it has been clear that a two-hour meeting would benefit from a complementary platform at national level. The idea of such voluntary platforms would be to ensure a frank regular dialogue between stakeholders on progress and remaining challenges, as well as encouraging donors and recipients to enter into partnership for completion. When looking ahead, we hope that this instrument will prove to be a useful tool and contribute to strengthened cooperation and assistance. We look forward to exchanging views on the National Mine Action Platforms. We will also host a side event over lunch today and we look forward to your active engagement.
3. Thirdly, the committee has discussed possible efforts on how States can increase resources to their mine action efforts through innovative financing and through more solid resource mobilization strategies. This is an area that could potentially be further explored.
4. A fourth aspect of our work concerns our mandate to look at the use of information exchange tools to foster partnerships between States Parties. The Committee together with the ISU has been exploring ways in which it can assist States in developing their country pages on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention website. The Committee has also continued to explore an online reporting tool for States Parties which we hope will facilitate reporting. This is still work in progress.

Ladies and gentlemen, the discussions we have had over the last year and the Oslo Action Plan reaffirms the importance of these matters for the strengthening of cooperation and assistance.

As we move forward the Committee will continue its efforts to promote cooperation and assistance strengthened by Actions 41 to 46 of the Oslo Action Plan.

Political will, ensuring strong partnerships, with stakeholders being accountable to one another and ensuring ongoing open dialogue will be the responsibility of us all. National ownership is key.

I thank you.