

CCM 8MSP
Statement by Sweden

Agenda item 7 (e) International cooperation and assistance

Mr President,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the European Union, but I would like to say a few words from our national perspective. First, I would like to thank Peru and Australia for their work as coordinators on international cooperation and assistance.

Mr President,

Gender issues are high on the agenda of my government. Sweden seeks to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament. In the context of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, gender is an important aspect not least for development cooperation incl. for mine action. Sweden pursues an active and ambitious feminist policy with a focus on rights, resources and representation. Our goal should be to link our work in mine action to the broad agenda of women, peace and security and UNSC resolution 1325. It should also be noted that increased universalization and full implementation of the convention, especially relating to activities on international cooperation and assistance, will be positive contributions to achieve Agenda 2030 and its sustainable development goals.

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 Explosive Remnants of War, including cluster munitions, for example our support to activities in Iraq and several other countries through the Danish Demining Group and MAG. Over the last few years Sweden has contributed to the on-going work of Norwegian People's Aid on demining in Cambodia with special focus on cluster munitions. These activities have continued and were extended to successful pilot work in Lao PDR and Vietnam.

Sweden also decided on a voluntary contribution to the Convention's ISU of 250 000 kronor, approximately 28 000 Swiss Francs, including and above our mandatory contribution.

Thank you Mr President."