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PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

(Colombia, Germany, Turkey and the United Kingdom)

I. Purpose, mandate and organisation of the Committee

The Maputo Review Conference established the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance with the following purpose, “to assist the States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, in line with their reaffirmation that ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines is a shared commitment”.

With this purpose in mind the Committee was mandated to, “promote cooperation and assistance under the Convention, facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance, and coordinate with other implementation mechanisms established by the States Parties in order to facilitate and accelerate the full implementation of the Convention.”

The Fourth Review Conference expanded the Committee’s mandate to:

- Review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.
- Consider matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work.

II. Strengthening Partnerships

The Committee views the strengthening of partnerships between States in a position to provide assistance, both financial and technical, and States Parties requiring assistance is critical for the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention.

Individualised Approach (IA)

As part of the Committee’s mandate to, in part, “promote cooperation and assistance under the Convention” and to “facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance” the Committee continued its work on supporting the IA. A one-page description of the IA was included in the Conclusions of the Committee adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.¹

During the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee supported Cambodia in participating in the IA. The Committee also supported Cambodia in finalizing the Final Report and instructed the Implementation

¹ <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/16MSP/Committee-Coop-Assistance-conclusions-advancecopy-EN.pdf>

Support Unit (ISU) to upload the Report and presentations on Cambodia's country page on the Convention's website, in line with Action #43 of the Oslo Action Plan which stipulates, in part, that "States Parties will share the outcomes of the individualised approach with the wider mine action community in order to maximise its impact."

Following the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo, the Committee engaged the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Niger, States that Committees consider could benefit from participating in the IA and whom expressed interest in participating. Niger will hold an IA discussion in the margins of the 2020 virtual Intersessional Meetings, with the Committee providing support and assistance in drafting the invitation and programme for the event for distribution to selected invitees.

To date, the Committee has supported 10 States Parties in taking advantage of the IA since 2016 including Angola (2018), Cambodia (2019), Croatia (2016), Serbia (2018), Sri Lanka (2018), Sudan (2018), Somalia (2018) and Zimbabwe (2017 and 2018), Ecuador (2019), Tajikistan (2019).

National Mine Action Coordination Platforms

The Committee noted that the IA offers a platform for affected States Parties with obligations under the Convention to strengthen partnerships for implementation at a national level. However, a robust national conversation between stakeholders is essential to strengthen and foster partnerships for completion, in line with Action #44 of the Oslo Action Plan in which States Parties commit to "strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. They will consider, where relevant, establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders."

In this regard, the Committee presented a *Sample model for a National Mine Action Platform (NMAP)* to the Fourth Review Conference and will continue to promote the establishment of such platforms as an important component to ensuring effective and efficient progress in the implementation of State Party commitments under the Convention.²

Donor Coordination

While mine affected States Parties are ultimately responsible for implementation, it is understood that the donor community can also contribute to the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. This includes by strengthening the coordination of their efforts to support States Parties with their implementation as highlighted by Action #46 of the Oslo Action Plan, which states that "States Parties in a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties." In order to promote discussions on this matter, the Committee decided to hold a panel to look at key components of Cooperation and Assistance, paying particular attention to National Ownership, Donor Coordination and South-South Cooperation. The panel will also include the mention of the responsibility of donor states to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programming.

² <https://www.osloreviewconference.org/fileadmin/APMBC-RC4/Fourth-Review-Conference/National-mine-action-platforms-en.pdf>

III. Information Sharing

As part of the Committee's mandate to look at the use of information exchange tools to foster partnerships between States Parties, the Committee has been exploring ways in which it can assist states in developing their country pages on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention website to as well as the development of an online reporting tool.

Country web pages

The country pages on the Convention's website enable States Parties to provide information on the development of their national programmes in collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee. The Committee remains ready to assist States Parties in this regard and encourages States Parties to share relevant information care of the Implementation Support Unit.

The Committee encourages States Parties to visit their country websites and to, through the ISU, provide any additional information it may want to highlight concerning its national programme. The Committee presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties some suggested information States Parties may want to consider in this regard.³

Online reporting tool

The Committee, in an effort to facilitate reporting on the part of States Parties and in an effort to encourage sharing of information continues to examine an online tool for Article 7 reporting.

In its conclusions presented to the 17MSP in 2018, the Committee indicated that an online tool for Article 7 reporting would not replace the option to provide reports through the current system, nor would it create additional reporting requirements. The Committee reiterates that the online tool for Article 7 reporting would mirror and complement the Guide to Reporting adopted by the States Parties at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties taking into consideration any updates to the Guide to Reporting following the Fourth Review Conference.

In addition to facilitating the submission of Article 7 reports, it is expected that an online reporting tool would assist in the analysis work of the President and the Convention's Committees and therefore facilitate our collaborative work in the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, the Committee, with the support of the ISU, has engaged companies in the development of a online reporting tool with the aim of having it up and running as soon as possible.

Article 7 Reports

The Committee has reviewed the Article 7 Reports submitted to date and welcomes the information submitted by States Parties on implementation of cooperation and assistance measures highlighted in the Oslo Action Plan. The Committee welcomed the provision of information in this regard from Angola, Argentina, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and Yemen (attached).

³ <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/17MSP/Committee-Coop-Assistance-conclusions-en.pdf>

IV. Preliminary observations

The Committee intends to continue its work to fulfil its mandate in line with the identified programme of work moving towards the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

The Committee continues to believe that the IA is an invaluable component of Cooperation and Assistance and, in this regard, the Committee will continue to work with States Parties to take advantage of this platform and to disseminate information on their remaining challenge and need for support. In order to ensure that the IA is a success, the Committee considers it crucial that the interested State Party take the lead and increase its engagement with the Committee and the Implementation Support Unit in the lead up to their IA meeting.

The Committee continues to recognise that the IA is not an end in itself. In this regard, the Committee will continue to promote the establishment of National Mine Action Platforms to strengthen stakeholder dialogue and in the lead up to the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties will give specific focus to improving the effectiveness of follow-up activities at both international and national levels. The Committee remains committed to support States Parties in this regard.

In addition, the Committee encourages States Parties to continue sharing information through their Article 7 Reports and other means, including the status of implementation, and, if relevant, its needs for cooperation and assistance, to better enable States to meet their obligations under the Convention, to the fullest extent possible, by 2025. The Committee further encourages States Parties in a position to provide assistance to continue including information on support provided in Article 7 Reports to raise awareness and provide avenues for coordination / cooperation. As part of this work, the Committee will continue to work to develop an online reporting tool to facilitate reports. The Committee will also continue to encourage States Parties to share relevant information through their country pages on the Convention's website.

While affected States Parties are required to do their part by demonstrating and strengthening national ownership by participating in the IA approach and establishing effective National Mine Action Platforms, donor coordination will also be essential to ensure that State Parties receive the support they need to meet the challenges expressed. With this objective, the Committee will continue exploring areas in which donor coordination can be improved.

Concerning the information submitted by the States Parties in their 2020 Article 7 Reports (Annex):

- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by 6 States Parties – Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Serbia, Thailand and Yemen – on the commitment of resources to meet Convention obligations as well as alternative sources of funding being explored. Given the Committee's understanding that most States Parties contribute financial or in-kind resources for the implementation of their commitments, the Committee would encourage more mine affected States Parties to report on their efforts to implement #42 of the Oslo Action Plan. Likewise, the committees welcomes reports on innovative sources of funding which could provide guidance to other mine affected States Parties of untapped resource.
- The Committee welcomes information from two States Parties – Angola and Serbia – on their efforts to mobilize resources and disseminating information on challenges and requirements for

assistance. The Committee welcomes this information and encourages more States to provide information on the challenges faced and requirements for assistance in their reports. The Committee further encourages States to take advantage of the individualised approach platforms. (Action #43 of the Oslo Action Plan)

- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by three States Parties – Angola, Norway and the United Kingdom – on efforts made to promote dialogue among all stakeholders. The Committee views this as a critical element for implementation and encourages other States to report on their efforts in this regard as well as to consider establishing platforms for partnership to enable sustained dialogue with stakeholders. (Action #44 of the Oslo Action Plan)
- The Committee welcomes the information submitted by thirteen States Parties – Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – on their efforts to provide support to mine clearance and victim assistance activities. (Action #45). The Committee also noted that funding was also directed toward existing mechanisms such as the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund and the ICRC's Special Appeal. (Action #46)
- The Committee also welcomes reporting by 9 States Parties – Argentina, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Spain, Thailand and Turkey – on cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral. (Action #46) The Committee noted that this cooperation includes the exchange of knowledge, expertise, collaboration on borders, capacity building and exchange visits. The Committee encourages States Parties to continue its efforts to report on these matters and to continue efforts in this regard.
- Finally, the Committee welcomes information provided by 2 States Parties – Turkey and the United Kingdom – on its efforts to ensure that gender and diversity are integrated in the cooperation and assistance efforts. The Committee encourages States Parties to continue ensuring consideration for gender and diversity in their cooperation and assistance practices.

Annex– Information provided by States Parties in implementation of the Oslo Action Plan

Action #42 *Do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible alternative and/or innovative sources of funding.*

- **Angola** reported that while it faces financial and economic constraints, in 2019 it allocated US\$ 15.7 million to the demining sector, mainly to support the activities of the three government institutions involved in demining, mainly to support infrastructural demining, verification, and clearance of contaminated roads.

Angola further reported that the government committed \$60 million towards the clearance of minefields in the Okavango conservation area in Kwando Kubango Province, in line with efforts to protect and promote its biodiversity and promote tourism. The project will be implemented by the Halo Trust in partnership with Executive Commission for Demining (CED) and the National Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH).

- Angola indicate that it received approximately \$66 million in international support from the United Kingdom, Japan, Norway, the United States, SIDA, British Petroleum, and ENI through their contributions to MAG, the HALO Trust, APOPO and NPA.
- **Cambodia** reported that it is committed to provide annual financial support of approximately 250.000\$ to the Cambodian Mine Action Authority, and especially to the Victim Assistant Department for implementing a number of activities related to the collection of data on mine survivors, providing emergency response to casualties and on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

Cambodia reported that in 2019, the Canadian Government, through UNDP under the Clearing for Results Project Phase III, provided support to the project entitled “*Expending landmine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) victim assistance in Cambodia*” including the provision of equipment and training for a 48 member volunteer survivor network to support data collection, policy development and planning and coordination and peer support among volunteers which amount of \$7,500.

- **Colombia** reported having received a total of USD 37.615.840 in support of its mine action activities from the United States, the European Union, Norway, Discovery Channel, Germany, the UN, Switzerland, the Antonio Restrepo Barco Foundation, Gran Tierra Energy (private enterprise), UNMAS, Canada, UNICEF and Italy. Colombia reported that cooperation from the international community, through technical and financial support continues to be crucial in complementing the national comprehensive mine action efforts.
- **Serbia** reported that in 2019 the Government increased its state budget for demining operations to approximately 350,000 EUR, compared to 200,000 EUR in 2018, and 100,000 EUR in 2017, 2016 and 2015. Serbia reported that these funds were matched through ITF Enhancing Human Security with available donor funds. Serbia further reported that due to the coronavirus crisis and government measures in the fight against consequences of the crisis, the demining budget will be decreased by 20 or 30%.
- **Thailand** reported that although the Royal Thai Government provides the majority of the funds and support for humanitarian mine action, Thailand still welcomes additional support in terms of

equipment, mine detectors, newer technologies and innovation, as well as additional survey teams. This will help enhance the mine clearance operations and support Thailand in becoming mine-free in a timely manner.

- **Yemen** reported that there was a government budget of \$3 million per year but it was affected by the conflict and the current circumstances. Yemen reported that the Government of Yemen covers the cost for YEMAC staff and limited medical treatment through local hospitals. Yemen reported that significant additional support is provided to the government through the MASAM project from Saudi Arabia. Yemen further indicated that all financial support comes from bi-lateral donors to the INGOS or donors to the UNDP.

Yemen reported that the current level of resource mobilisation does not meet the need and that this is further complicated by the fact that the majority of the funding being donated is ear marked for implementation, whereas there is a need for coordination, which is less likely to be funded. Yemen further indicates challenges with being bounded by the funding periods of their donors, with programmes only able to plan for up to 12 months in advance.

Action #43 *States Parties seeking assistance will develop resource mobilization plans and use all mechanisms within the Convention to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance, including through their annual Article 7 transparency reports and by taking advantage of the Individualised approach.*

- **Angola** reported its efforts to increase visibility of its programme including by hosting a recent visit of the Prince Harry Duke of Sussex, the Wilton Park Conference on Angola held in Johannesburg and the Fourth Review Conference side event on Angola held in Oslo.
- **Serbia** reported that it has taken concrete steps in order to present its challenges and needs to potential donor countries and other relevant stakeholders including through many bilateral meetings with several states in which Serbia presented its main challenges in completion of its Convention obligations. Serbia indicated that these meetings have resulted in donations from the US, Japan and Republic of Korea.

Serbia further reported that it participated in the Individualised Approach to share the status of Serbia's national programme and the needs and challenges in implementing its mine clearance obligations on the margins of the June 2018 Intersessional meeting. In addition, Serbia indicated that it continues to approach potential donors and continues to raise awareness of the funding challenges and lobbying state authorities, public enterprises and local authorities to fund clearance operations in areas for which they are directly interested.

Action #44 *States Parties will strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention.*

- **Angola** indicated that internal collaboration, dialogue and information sharing with all stakeholders in the country has improved, with great dividends to the sector, with the re-establishment of periodic mine action and donor coordination meetings. The coordination mechanism has also provided a round table opportunity for stakeholders to discuss issues that are related to the sector and hence develop a

common understanding on how the sector needs to be managed to achieve the sector's common purpose and goal.

- **Norway** reported that it supports humanitarian demining organisations in their dialogue with national authorities in affected countries regarding the need to update national standards and ensure effective use of available resources for demining. Norway also reported its support to efforts to improve efficient national coordination of demining efforts and tasking practices (OAP 45).

Norway further reported that after finding limited or no structures in place in many mine affected countries for dialogue on mine action, it promotes the establishment of national mine action platforms in affected countries to engage national authorities, donors and operators, and thereby increase progress in mine action. Norway initiated the establishment of a mine action forum in Lebanon and has encouraged other donors to play the part of “champion donor” and to take similar initiatives in other countries.

- **The United Kingdom** reported that it partnered with Wilton Park on an international conference in South Africa on the challenges Angola faces in landmine clearance. The meeting focused on ways to develop Angolan capacity, education awareness raising of mines and their dangers, reintegration of victims into society, stimulating economic activity post clearance and alternative financing models for mine clearance programmes.

The United Kingdom further indicated that the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) regulates, manages and co-ordinates their mine action activities. The NMAA ensures that mine action is conducted in accordance with relevant legislation, and its approval is required before cleared areas are declared completed. The United Kingdom reported that the relevant authorities meet at least every six months. The contractors carrying out clearance tasks are invited to brief the NMAA at appropriate NMAA sessions.

Action #45 *States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance to other States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention, in line with their development policies.*

- **The Netherlands** has reported that through its ‘Mine Action and Cluster Munitions’ multi-annual programme (2016-2020), the Netherlands is contributing a total of €45 million euro to NGO partners Mines Advisory Group, Danish Church Aid and the HALO Trust for mine action activities in 14 different countries: Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Palestinian Territories, Mali, Somalia, Syria, South-Sudan, Kosovo, Yemen and Ukraine. Of this total amount € 10 million euro is reserved for emergency response.

The Netherlands further indicated that it supports the GICHD and provides an annual (unearmarked) contribution to the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund (Iraq). The Netherlands further indicated its support to the UNDP Mine Action Programme in Yemen. The Netherlands reported a total contribution in 2019 to NGO's and multilateral organisations for Humanitarian Mine Action of EUR 14,369,682.

- **Belgium** reported having contributed a total of 3.845.161 Euros to support the work of the ICRC, the HALO Trust, MAG and UNMAS in a number of countries including Chad, Iraq and Syria. Belgium further reported that this support includes support the ICRC's *Special Appeal: Disability and Mine Action* as well as global programmes of Handicap International and non-earmarked funding for the ICRC. Belgium

further reported the contribution of equipment of the Group of Five Sahel Joint Force (FC-G5S) in C-IED material with 1,000,000 € (period 2018-2022).

- **The Czech Republic** reported having provided support totalling 950,000 CZK including to support activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (through the International Trust Fund). The Czech Republic also reported that it provides a contribution to the Implementation Support Unit of the AP Mine Ban Convention.
- **Estonia** reported that it has annually contributed to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund including 90,000 USD for activist in Syria and Iraq (2016-2018) and 30'000USD in 2019 for support to Iraq and Syria.
- **Germany** reported having contributed a total of 33,146,909.40 EUR through non-governmental organizations and UNMAS to support operations in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. Germany further reported supporting the GICHD and the ICBL/CMC with 912,537 EUR and 400,000 EUR, respectively.
- **Ireland** reported that in 2019 it provided financial support totalling 3,270,00 EUR to support clearance of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and ERW. Ireland indicated that it support the clearance of anti-personnel mines in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Somalia and Zimbabwe with a total of 1'950'000 EUR.

Ireland further reported that Défense Forces continue to provide qualified personnel to territories affected by ERW as advisors and technical experts on search and clearance operations. Ireland further reported that it provided €20,000 to the APLC ISU in 2019 to support its work in implementation and universalisation; and provided €5,000 to Mines Action Canada in support of their Mine Action Fellows Programme in 2019.

- **Japan** reported that in 2019 it provided financial support totalling 36,858,896 USD to support mine action efforts in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palau, Palestine, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe. This support was provided through international and non-governmental organizations including Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR), UNMAS, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan, MAG, NPA, APACOMINAS Angola, Japan Mine Action Service, Cambodia Mine Action Centre, Terra Renaissance, DCA, HI, UNICEF, Lebanese Association for Mine and Natural Disaster Action, ICRC, NATO, DASH Sri Lanka, SHARP Sri Lanka, the HALO Trust and NUMAD Sudan.
- **Norway** reported that in 2019 it provided financial support totalling approximately NOK 350 million for activities related to survey and clearance, capacity building, promotion of innovation, gender & inclusion, risk education and support for survivors - both as earmarked financial contributions, and also as funding for the most vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities within broader relief - and development cooperation efforts- across 20 countries through its partners including NPA, MAG, the HALO Trust, UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP), the ICRC, Humanity & Inclusion, ICBL-CMC, and local NGOs in Colombia and Lao PDR.
- **Slovakia** reported a financial contribution of 16,759 EUR to UNMAS project "Explosive Threat Mitigation - Enabling Returns in Liberated Areas" in Iraq, which aims at supporting mine action activities, risk education and capacity enhancement.

Slovakia further reported that it contributed 55,000 EUR to the OSCE project “Building Ukrainian Humanitarian Demining Capacity” to provide assistance in the field of legislation, expert training, as well as the technical equipment and materials. Slovakia further reported its support to the Ukraine Trust Fund for Explosive Ordnance and Counter – Improvised Explosive Devices Measures.

- **Spain** reported a contribution totalling 60,000 Euros to UNMAS.
- **Sweden** reported a contribution of approximately SEK 82’290’000 to mine action with most of this channelled through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in support of mine action activities in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Sweden reported that this support has been provided through International and non-governmental organizations including DDG, Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, UN Multi Partner Trust Fund for Post Conflict Colombia, UNMAS, MAG, MSB, Geneva Call, ICRC, UNICEF and the GICHD.
- **Switzerland** reported that in 2019 it provided financial support totalling approximately CHF 18 million in support of mine action activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Libya, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Syria and Ukraine. Switzerland also highlighted its support to organization such as the ICRC, Geneva Call, the ICBL, the GICHD and the Convention’s ISU.

Switzerland further report on its efforts to develop training courses with its partners, the GICHD, UNMAS, UNICEF, and UNOPS. Switzerland reported its international training courses on the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) via the channels of the Partnership for Peace Program (PfP) and an additional series of courses in different fields of mine action. During the reporting period, Switzerland reported its collaboration with partners such as the GICHD, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNMAS and UNDP to offer eleven courses with the following topics: *"Non-technical survey course"*, *"Integrated Mine Action for Better Results"*, *"Mine/ERW Risk Education Course"*, *"IMAS and Compliance"*, *"Results Based Management in Mine Action"*, one *"A1 IMSMA-Training-Courses"*, one *"A2 IMSMA Training-Course"*, one *"IMSMA-Core Training Course"*, two basic *"Support Service Officers Courses"* and one senior *"Support Service Officers Course"*. The courses took place in Spiez and Stans (NTS) with Switzerland providing a total of approximately CHF 0.3 million in support of the training courses.

Switzerland further reported the provision of experts in the fields of EOD, logistics, finance and information management, training and security to UN mine action programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Libya, Mali, South Sudan, and Western Sahara as well as to UNOPS and UNMAS HQ in New York. During the reporting period, CHF 3.55 million have been spent for the secondment of personnel, the organisation of training courses and different other activities.

- **The United Kingdom** reported that in 2019 it provided financial support totalling £85,301,016.09 to support mine action activities in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Iraq, Tunisia, Lebanon, Libya, Abkhazia/Georgia, Laos, Myanmar, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Pakistan, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe. The United Kingdom reported that this support is provided through International and non-governmental organizations including the Halo Trust, MAG, UNDP and UNMAS.

The United Kingdom further reported CSSF funding to mine action activities, as part of wider support to Syrian Civil Defence. In addition, due to disruptions to parts of the UK's Global Mine Action Programme in Syria in 2019, funding for FY 2019/2020 cannot yet be confirmed.

Action #46 *States Parties in a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties.*

- **The United Kingdom** reported that in designing its Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP) programming, DFID continues to take into account of the geographic and strategic balance of other donors' funding to ensure that UK support helps a variety of affected State Parties meet their Convention obligations and that UK funding is being put to best use.

The United Kingdom further reported that DFID maintains regular contact with other donors on a variety of mine action programming and policy issues to ensure they are aligned and working in coordination with national partners globally. This includes coordinating closely on key issues and sharing lessons learnt and best practice from GMAP2 programming. The United Kingdom continues to use the Mine Action Support Group to promote improved coordination and regular dialogue.

Action #47 *Continuously explore opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Cooperation of this kind may include making mutually supporting clearance commitments in border areas, sharing experience of integrating gender and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account into programming, and, in line with Article 6, exchanging equipment, material and scientific and technological information (or donating them after one State Party reaches completion) in order to promote the implementation of the Convention.*

- **Argentina** reported that it received training in Mine Risk Education and Information Management provided by the National Demining Commission of Chile / Chilean Army. Argentina also reported that it hosted a visit from the personnel of the Armed Forces of Ecuador.
- **Brunei Darussalam** reported that, through the Ministry of Defence, it continues to contribute to mine action efforts within the ASEAN region namely through platforms such as ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) and one of the seven areas of cooperation under the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) framework namely the 'Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action (EWG on HMA).
- **Cambodia** reported that, through South-South Cooperation and DFID project, it has received 23 visitors (including 4 women) from Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to exchange knowledge with the Cambodian Mine Action Authority and other demining operators in Cambodia. Cambodia further indicated that the Chinese government sponsored 20 officers and staff (4 women) from CMAA to attend the humanitarian demining course in China.
- **Croatia** reported that it continues to be available to provide expertise to the mine action community and reported on its continued regional and bilateral cooperation, including the mutual support and exchange of information with Bosnia and Herzegovina on hazardous border areas.

Croatia further reported on addition cooperation including:

- a. A visit by the Libyan Ministry of Defense to the Civil Protection Directorate and CROMAC-CTDT Ltd. To exchange knowledge in the field of mine action.
 - b. A training course for MRE instructors held by CROMAC-CTDT Ltd. for representatives of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Centre in Serbia.
 - c. A training course on planning, prioritization, project design and quality management in Mine Action held by CROMAC-CTDT Ltd. for staff of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Centre and the Mine Action Centre in Serbia.
 - d. Participation by CROMAC-CTDT in a Round Table on Humanitarian Mine Action Challenges and Best Practices in Teheran, Iran, organized by the Iranian Mine Action Centre and the International Committee of the Red Cross.
 - e. The Ministry of the Interior (Civil Protection Directorate) and CROMAC Centre for Testing, Development and Training Ltd. held the 16th International Symposium “Mine Action 2019” with some 150 participants from 31 countries. The Symposium serve as an opportunity to exchange knowledge.
 - f. During September 2019, the research team of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb (FER), in cooperation with Vallon GmbH, conducted field tests at the CROMAC-CTDT Ltd. test site in Benkovac. The tests were carried out as part of the METASHAPE research project, funded by the UK's Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation. The aim of the project is to develop and implement advanced methods for recognizing the shape of buried metal objects using commercial metal detectors for use in humanitarian Mine Action.
 - g. Furthermore, CROMAC-CTDT Ltd. participates in a NATO SPS Project G5355 “Biological methods (bees) for explosive detection”, where it has a managing role. It is a three-year project which ends in November 2020. The project aims to develop innovative methods and technologies for detection of landmines. This will be achieved through advancement and integration of current state-of-the-art techniques, namely, trained bee colonies, in conjunction with organic semiconductor-based explosive vapour sensing films, UAVs with high-definition and thermal imaging cameras and image processing and analysis software. The combination of these two methods will enable passive sampling of an area to confirm the presence of explosive materials, but also active pinpointing of landmine locations.
- **Estonia** reported that a project launched for 2016-2017 continued until the end of 2019 to support the establishment of humanitarian demining training programme in the Ukrainian Lviv State University of Life Safety with the aim of supporting the establishment of the training system for humanitarian demining in Ukraine. Estonia reported contributing to the project over 152,000 EUR. The project included the development of methodologies for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) officers' training in Ukraine and their training curricula with special attention to the use of the International Mine Association Standards (IMAS) in EOD practice in Ukraine. Estonia reported the it also supports the Ukrainian Emergency Services in humanitarian demining with the last project totalling 76,600 EUR.
 - **Lithuania** reported having provided in-kind support to NATO PfP Trust Fund Project to Support Practical Cooperation with Ukraine in the Area of medical Rehabilitation.
 - **Spain** provided information on its International Demining Centre (CID) and the humanitarian demining training offered by the CID.
 - **Thailand** reported its collaboration with Cambodia to address SHAs/CHAs located along the Thai-Cambodian border. Thailand reported continuing to push forward the pilot project on demining cooperation with Cambodia, which will serve as a catalyst to mine clearance cooperation based on humanitarian principles, reporting the following:

- a. On 14 January 2019, TMAC and the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) held meetings in Sa Kaeo Province (Thai side) and Banteay Meanchey Province (Cambodian side) to discuss the demining cooperation project.
- b. During 16 - 18 June 2019, TMAC and CMAC met in Sa Kaeo Province to conduct a survey and assess prospective areas for demining.
- c. On 22 and 23 September 2019, TMAC and CMAC accompanied the senior representatives of the General Border Committee (GBC) to visit Sa Kaeo Province (Thailand) and Banteay Meanchey Province (Cambodia) as part of the approval process. The GBC survey/visit led to both sides agreeing on demining cooperation in the areas of Sa-no-noi Village, Tha-kham Subdistrict, Aranyaprathet District, Sa Kaeo Province in Thailand, and in Killolekbulan (Kilo 4), Phsakondan Commune, Poipet District, Banteay Meanchey Province in Cambodia. Thailand anticipates that the cooperation can start in 2020.

Thailand further reported that all demining operations along the border areas between Thailand and Cambodia shall be without prejudice to the rights of Thailand and Cambodia with regard to the land boundary under international law.

Thailand reported that it continues to participate in various workshops and meetings organised under the ASEAN framework which enables Thailand to show its commitment to mine clearance works and serves as a platform for best practice and experience sharing. Thailand also contributes 10,000 USD annually in support of ARMAC operation from 2019 – 2021.

Thailand reported additional efforts to exchange experiences, in particular:

- a. TMAC received a request from the Republic of Korea to share experiences on the establishment of humanitarian mine action organisation. In 2019, the Director General of TMAC gave a briefing on Thailand's humanitarian mine action programme for the US-ROK delegates during the 22nd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers.
 - b. upon the request of the Norwegian Embassy in Yangon, Thailand hosted a briefing and site visit for senior Myanmar representatives from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Inspector Office as well as Norwegian diplomats and NPA. The briefing focused on several issues, including the organization of the Thailand Mine Action Centre and an overview of the mine situation. The site visit took place at the Humanitarian Mine Action Unit 1 in Sa Kaeo Province. In addition, during the Fourth Review Conference, TMAC was requested by the NPA Headquarters to brief the Myanmar delegation on the overall mine action situation as well as the positive aspect of becoming a State Party to the Convention. This is considered as part of Thailand's universalization effort, which is in line with the Oslo Action Plan #11. (Picture 8-6)
 - c. Thailand reported on its continued cooperation with the Japan, Norway and the United States.
- **Turkey** reported that it is the lead nation for the third phase of the ANAMA-NATO/NSPA Partnership for Peace Trust Fund Project "*Jeyranchel Clearance Project*" concerning mine/UXO clearance of approximately 22 square kilometres in Azerbaijan and has contributed 200.000 USD since the beginning of the project.

Turkey further reported that a good will and cooperation agreement in demining will be signed with Azerbaijan in 2020.

Gender and Diversity

- **Turkey** reported that Gender and diversity are taken into consideration in all mine action activities in Turkey. Turkey reported that a total of 45% of Turkish Mine Action Centre personnel are female (three of them branch chiefs) but that at the moment there are no female personnel in the military demining units. Turkey reported that civilian contractors are encouraged and advised to operate with female personnel with, for example, all medics and information management personnel of demining contractor in EBMCP Phase-2 being female. The demining and border management projects are designed to promote equality and combating discrimination. The project documents define activities with specific indicators which enable equitable gender participation. All reports provide disaggregated data by age and gender. As an example, the upcoming EBMCP Phase-3 Project Document covers a dedicated section of activities aiming this topic.
- The **United Kingdom** reported it requires its contractors, SafeLane Global Ltd and Fenix Insight Ltd, to meet contractual conditions to prevent unlawful discrimination either directly or indirectly on protected characteristics such as race, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, sex or sexual orientation, religion or belief, or age. The provisions also set out that the Contractor shall adhere to the current relevant codes of practice or recommendations published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Fenix Insight Ltd has an organisational gender policy which it applies to its demining, though there is limited opportunity to pursue it on the Falklands given the deployed “team” is composed of only one (male) person. SafeLane Global Ltd has an equal opportunities policy and selects employees based on qualification and experience, without gender restrictions. In management level positions employed by SafeLane Global on the Demining Programme, women occupy one third, but none of the survey or clearance staff is female. At the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the national authority, women are involved in the Programme in key positions, such as Senior Responsible Officer, Deputy Senior Responsible Officer, and Project Manager.

The United Kingdom further reported that it is a leader in developing policies to address gender related issues and is committed to politically empower women and girls as change agents and leaders, as articulated in the UK’s Department for International Development’s (DFID’s) Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, the UK’s National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the World Humanitarian Summit Commitments.

The United Kingdom reported that in line with the UK’s legislative commitments under the Gender Equality Act, DFID continues to promote and mainstream gender equality through GMAP2 and ensure our mine action programming is attuned to the different needs of men, women, boys and girls in the following ways:

Operator employment practices: mine action organisations that DFID funds should ensure the staff they engage are reflective of, and responsive to, the gender demographics in local communities.

DFID expects their chosen suppliers to demonstrate a commitment to gender and social inclusion in employment practices in each country of operation. DFID promotes and encourages the employment of as many female deminers as possible. Key recent successes through DFID’s GMAP2 programme

include funding toward the first mixed gender demining team in Yemen, the first female deminer in Sudan, as well as all female demining teams in Angola, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Implementing mine action activities: women, men, girls and boys are affected by landmine contamination in different ways and respond differently to messages on the threat of landmines. Because of this, mine risk education sessions should be adjusted to the specific audience and, where possible, delivered in specific groups. We also know that women, men, girls and boys will describe the experience of living with landmines differently. For this reason, non-technical surveys (i.e. consulting with local communities) should be conducted with single-sex groups where appropriate, and capacity development of local authorities and governments should include gender awareness training.

Data collection, disaggregation and analysis: all DFID's programme indicators are disaggregated by gender as far as possible and where appropriate. This includes data on the impact of landmines and beneficiary demographics. DFID request this information from their implementing partners on a quarterly basis in order to monitor impact effectively.