

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**STATEMENT: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

Thank you Mr / Madam President,

The UK is committed through its global mine action programme to improving the quality of life for people affected by cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, and other explosive remnants of war. The UK does this through tackling contamination, risk education, and supporting the development of strong, accessible health systems.

The UK also has an increasing focus on supporting people with disabilities. This includes ensuring development programmes adequately include disabled people throughout programme design, delivery and monitoring.

The UK does not discriminate against or among victims of cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, armed conflict generally, or other persons with disabilities. Support should be non-discriminatory and should aim to improve capacity in a sustainable manner.

Between 2010 and 2013, the UK spent over £38 million to support Mine Action in ten countries worldwide. We funded projects in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Laos PDR, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Sudan, South Sudan and Vietnam.

In three years, UK support has achieved results of which we and all the countries and agencies involved can be proud. We have removed over 70,000 mines and Explosive Remnants of War. We have released over 10,000 hectares of contaminated or suspected hazardous land so that people can conduct their lives in safety. We have also increased the awareness of hundreds of thousands of people through mine risk education.

The UK's Mine Action efforts have been an important component of our commitment to reach the target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2013/2014. Despite the difficult global economic climate, the UK has achieved that target. In 2012, we were the second largest donor of Official Development Assistance of all OECD countries.

Mr/ Madam President,

This year we are looking forwards to what we can achieve in the future. We will prioritise UK funding to countries affected by cluster munitions, mines and other ERW where the needs are greatest. The UK will focus its resources according to the following criteria:

- levels of poverty;
- casualty rates from cluster munitions, mines and other ERW;
- levels of cluster munition, mine and other ERW contamination;
- gaps in existing donor assistance;
- development potential (following mine action activity);
- commitment on the part of the host government to addressing the issue;
- presence and capacity of a national coordination body;
- and opportunities for integration into wider bilateral programming.

We are pleased to report that a new central programme of projects to implement this strategy has been designed, with a commitment of £30m over three years in place, alongside our existing bilateral commitments. Phase One of this work began in July: in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Mozambique.

Thank you, Mr / Madam President