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Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden

Convention on Cluster Munitions

Second Meeting of States Parties

Item 10. General Status and operation of the Convention

Cooperation and Assistance

Statement by Sweden

Mr/Madam President,

As this is the first time Sweden has taken the floor during this Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, I would like first to thank you Mr/Madam President and your distinguished colleagues for advancing the work under this agenda item and to pledge the full support of the Swedish delegation for your important task. May I also use this opportunity to thank our Lebanese hosts for their warm and gracious welcome and splendid arrangements for this meeting.

We associate ourselves with the statement made earlier by the EU.

Today, I would like to provide some information and views on cooperation and assistance to mine action, from a Swedish perspective.

Over the past ten years, Sida (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Authority) has disbursed financial support to mine action corresponding to approximately 1 billion Swedish kronor (SEK), or some 90 to 100 million Euro. This support refers in most cases both to landmines and to ERW, including cluster munitions. Thus, with support of almost 10 million Euro per year over this period, Sweden ranks among the world's biggest bilateral contributors to mine action.

Sida recently carried out an external review of the agency's mine action support since 2001. This is not the place to go into detail, but some major weaknesses were identified among the various mine action programmes and a number of important conclusions were drawn from this review. Among these were – in short - (1) the need for a stronger push from donors regarding outcomes and impact, (2) the need to have a more strategic approach to building national capacities and (3) the importance of linking mine action to development activities and national development plans.

During 2010 Sida disbursed a total amount of almost 90 million SEK to mine action. The support targeted six countries/territories. These were Afghanistan, DRC, Iraq, Sudan, Sri Lanka and Western Sahara. The main part of the financial support, approximately 70%, was allocated and disbursed from the allocation for long term development cooperation. This constituted a significant change from 2009 where the relationship was the opposite, i.e. the allocation for humanitarian assistance stood for the largest part of Sida's funding to mine action. Most of these programmes relate both to landmines and cluster munitions actions.

Sida's main partners in mine action during 2010 were Danish Demining Group, DDG, accounting for approximately 55% of the total Sida funded contributions. Mines Advisory Group, MAG, accounted for almost 20%.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB, managed also approximately 20% of Sida's support. This agency is involved in the DRC, Somalia and Iraq, and with additional IMSMA experts to UNMAS. The support to Geneva Call, The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Landmine Monitor continued during 2010. Swedish support to mine action was also carried out through support to UNMAS and the Swedish substantive core support to UNICEF and UNDP – especially its Unit for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. Both of these UN organisations do important work in the field of mine action.

Sida's support to mine action during last year targeted the thematic areas of mine risk education, demining and advocacy. The larger part of support to programmes and projects within these areas focused on demining and mine awareness. The aspects of national capacity building for mine action are many times an integrated part in contributions, even though there is no statistical certainty of how much funding *per se* is directed to measures of national capacity building. The area of victims assistance was not targeted by any specific project support. However, Sida's support to the health sector in some of the affected countries is substantial.

Returning to our host country, Lebanon, Sweden has supported mine action here during several years. In the period 2005 – 2009 that support amounted to 66 million SEK, or about 10 million USD, managed by MSB in cooperation with UNMAS. In fact, during that period Lebanon was the second most important recipient of Swedish mine action support, after Iraq.

Thank you, Mr/Madam President