

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

**STATEMENT: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

Thank you Mr President,

The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and will make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

The UK is committed through its many international mine action programmes to improving the quality of life for people affected by cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, and other effects of armed conflict. In particular, the UK tackles the humanitarian threat posed by sub-munitions by surveying for, and clearing, cluster munition remnants; delivering risk education; supporting the development of strong, accessible health systems; and building national governments' capacity to manage their own ordnance clearance activities.

In 2015 alone, the UK's mine action work in developing countries resulted in the removal of over 22,000 landmines and ERW; and released over 37 million square metres of land which resulted in people having better access to basic services and increased economic opportunities, as well as enjoying improved safety. The UK's projects reached over 115,000 additional people through mine risk education activities. The UK also worked in Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Iraq and Ukraine to strengthen the ability of national authorities to manage their own landmine and ERW programmes.

The UK attaches a great deal of importance to gender-awareness in its mine action and explosive remnants of war programmes. To ensure our programmes benefit women, girls, men and boys we collect disaggregated data and use this to develop our project design. The United Kingdom also has an increasing focus on supporting people with disabilities. This includes ensuring that development programmes adequately include disabled people throughout programme design, delivery and monitoring. We do not discriminate against, or among, persons with disabilities, whether they be victims of cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, armed conflict generally, or disabled through illness, accident or other causes. Support should be non-discriminatory and should aim to improve capacity in a sustainable manner.

Phase 2 of the UK's Global Mine Action Programme will run from 2016 - 2017 and will be implemented by The HALO Trust, MAG and Norwegian People's Aid, working together for the first time bringing advantages in economies of scale and enhancing greater value for money, as well as encouraging partnerships between organisations. Under Phase 2, work will take place in Burma, Somalia, South Sudan and Zimbabwe,

thereby contributing towards meeting the 2015 UK Aid Strategy commitment to spend 50% of the Department for International Development's budget on fragile and conflict affected countries.

The United Kingdom's mine action efforts have been an important component of its commitment to reach the target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The United Kingdom has for many years funded such programmes worldwide, especially in those areas suffering from the effects of armed conflict, and is committed to continue to do so in future. This gets to the heart of what our Convention is all about – tackling the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions, so that civilians can live their lives free of fear and risk.

In closing, I would like to assure you of the United Kingdom's continued support for achieving the Convention's goals.

Thank you, Mr President