

CCM 7MSP

Statement by Sweden

Agenda item 8 (e) International cooperation and assistance

Madam President,

Since this is the first time I take the floor, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Chair and all those involved in the preparation of our meeting and assure you of our full support. I would also like to extend our thanks to the ISU for all your good work in preparation of this meeting.

Madam President,

Sweden stands fully by the statement given by the European Union and would like to give some brief additional comments from a national perspective.

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 with regard to 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.

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. Among these activities, Sweden engaged in a number of projects which include actions specifically targeted on cluster munitions, for example support to activities in Afghanistan and Iraq, 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 pilot work in Lao PDR and Vietnam.

Sweden also decided on a voluntary contribution to the Convention's ISU, over and above our mandatory contribution.

Thankyou Madam President.