

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**STATEMENT: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

Thank you Madam President,

The United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom 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.

The United Kingdom 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 further 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.

The United Kingdom does 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.

Over the last 18 months, the United Kingdom mine action and explosive remnants of war projects in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and

Iraq have benefitted around 325,000 people. 8.5 million square meters of land has now been cleared. 7.9 million square meters of this land is already being used by beneficiaries. The United Kingdom has also reached 67,000 people through its mine risk education sessions and community liaison visits.

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) by 2013/2014.

Madam President,

The United Kingdom has for many years funded mine action programmes worldwide, especially in those areas suffering from the effects of armed conflict. 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.

Thank you, Madam President