



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Council conclusions on Third Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction ("Ottawa Convention")

*AGRICULTURE and FISHERIES Council meeting
Luxembourg, 16 and 17 June 2014*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council recalls that the EU is united in pursuing the objectives of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, with all 28 EU Member States now States Parties, and that the EU and its Member States have a long history of support for mine clearance and the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, as well as for assistance to victims of anti-personnel mines.
2. The Council welcomes the upcoming Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention which will take place from 23 - 27 June 2014 in Maputo, Mozambique. The Council expresses its hope that this conference will be a success and will further reaffirm our shared commitment to end the suffering caused by the use of anti-personnel mines across the world.
3. The Council recalls that States Parties to the Convention have undertaken never under any circumstances to use anti-personnel mines. In that context, the EU appeals to all State and non-State actors to refrain from the use of anti-personnel mines.
4. The Council considers that the Third Review Conference equally presents an opportunity to agree on concrete plans as well as on a realistic set of activities to ensure further progress in the next phase of the implementation of the Convention's provisions and objectives, taking into account both its accomplishments and new challenges.

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5. The Council reiterates the European Union's unwavering support to States Parties in their full and effective implementation of the Convention, and its commitment to promote universalisation of the Convention, to provide resources to fund mine action, and concrete and sustainable assistance to anti-personnel mine victims, their families and communities. In this context it recalls Council Decision 2012/700/CFSP adopted on 13th November 2012 in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan.
6. The EU and its Member States have contributed more than 500 Million Euro since the last Review Conference in Cartagena, Columbia, representing more than one third of the world's financial assistance to mine action, and thus making the EU and its Member States the leading donor in this area. EU support has been decisive in reversing difficult situations in several countries. The Council recalls that, for example in Afghanistan, 89 million Euro have been spent by EU institutions over the last ten years, contributing in addition to the funds provided by individual Member States and other members of the international community, to clearing 78% of Afghanistan's minefields and building the capacity of the government of Afghanistan to deal with the devastating effects of anti-personnel mines.
7. The Council underlines the strong linkage with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which provides a wider framework to comprehensively address the needs of survivors of anti-personnel mine explosions, the realisation of their political as well as social and economic rights and to ensure respect for their inherent dignity.
8. The Council encourages all States Parties to continue to work in a spirit of cooperation during the Third Review Conference, keeping in mind the Convention's vision of a conclusive end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. The implementation of the Maputo Action Plan to be adopted at the Third Review Conference will depend on the efficiency of the Convention's working structures as well as on transparency and reporting by States Parties and on their full engagement. The EU and its Member States will aim at making these structures function well. Their performance will depend on the willingness and efficiency of their members. Efficiency also means that the costs of the various meetings related to the implementation of the Convention be optimised, and their schedule rationalised.
9. The Council reaffirms the commitment of the EU to continue its support to States Parties in their implementation of the Convention to ensure that we can work effectively in order to reach the Convention's objectives. This should be done in a way which reinforces the Convention's historic culture of partnership and collaboration between States Parties, the United Nations, other relevant international organisations or institutions, regional organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and relevant non-governmental organisations. The European Union will continue to support efforts towards full universalisation of the Convention, while also promoting adherence to individual norms of the Convention by non-States Parties. The European Union will continue to cooperate with and, where possible, extend assistance to those States Parties that most need support in meeting their commitments under the Convention, and to non-States Parties that significantly support mine action; this will continue to be carried out in coordination with other donors, and in close cooperation with the countries concerned."