



European Union
Statement by

**H.E. Mr Paul Malin, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union
to the Republic of Mozambique**

**THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
(Maputo, 23-27 June 2014)**

EU statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Maputo, 24 June 2014

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

**THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
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EU statement on Cooperation and Assistance
Maputo, 24 June 2014**

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Excellencies, dear friends,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration:
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[†], Montenegro, Iceland[‡], Serbia, Albania, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The EU concurs with the view that the Convention's shared goals can be advanced with enhanced ownership by States and by improved international cooperation between States seeking assistance and those that can provide it. In addition to cooperation with governments at national level, international cooperation is essential to the success of work on the ground.

Combined assistance by international actors can increase the impact of the different kinds of support that can be made available. We believe mine action should increasingly be integrated in the development agenda. It can promote integration of communities by making new economic means available, such as land or water which was previously inaccessible due to minefields. Mine action can also tackle humanitarian difficulties, such as restricted access for disabled people.

International Cooperation and Assistance can be best accomplished if synergies under other international instruments pertinent in different countries can be developed, ensuring full usage and interdependence of different programmes and projects. These synergies are equally relevant to ensure an applicable coherent legal framework.

Taking into account that anti-personnel mine issues and mine action are often a cross-border problem, the EU considers that international and regional organisations may contribute together to facilitate mine action between neighbouring States. This cooperation may well be cost-effective.

In order to ensure adequate integration of mine action into bilateral cooperation, it is necessary that mine-affected countries prioritise or sufficiently take on board mine action in their requests for general assistance, and that they make it a priority in their national indicative programmes.

For States not yet party to the Convention, an assessment of their support for mine action may be considered alongside other factors (for example, need) when targeting international cooperation

Through a number of projects under the Council Decision of November 2012 on the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan, the European Union supported, among other

[†] The Candidate countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[‡] Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

things, States Parties' efforts to implement the victim assistance and mine clearance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan.

Beyond those projects, the European Union and its Member States have contributed more than 500 Million Euro to Mine Action since the last Review Conference in Cartagena, Colombia, 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.

Mr. President,

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 countries concerned.