



**European Union**  
Statement by

**H.E. Ms Joëlle Jenny, Director for Security Policy and Conflict Prevention,  
European External Action Service**

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

---

EU statement on Victim Assistance

---

Maputo, 24 June 2014

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

**THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION  
EU statement on Victim Assistance  
Maputo, 24th 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<sup>†</sup>, Montenegro, Iceland<sup>‡</sup>, Serbia, Albania, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The EU has always paid great attention to victim assistance under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The Convention's norms on victim assistance are the clearest expression of the humanitarian spirit which drove its conclusion.

Important progress on providing assistance to anti-personnel mine victims has been achieved and the Convention has been playing a crucial role in this regard. However, more efforts are needed in order to ensure adequate assistance to victims in accordance to their needs.

For the European Union victim assistance is a core component of its Mine Action Strategy. The European Union is committed to providing concrete and sustainable assistance to victims, their families and communities.

The EU believes that in order for victim assistance efforts to be sustainable in the longer term, they need to be integrated into broader disability policies. The EU also particularly emphasises the importance of the full participation of survivors in decision-making and policy-making on issues affecting them (“nothing about us without us”).

Our ultimate promise to victims of anti-personnel mines is to ensure their full participation in all spheres of society on an equal basis with others and in a sustainable way. This goal can be better achieved taking also into consideration the continued relevance of and synergy with other international instruments and norms. In this regard, we wish to underline 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, the realisation of their political, social and economic rights, and to ensure respect for their inherent dignity.

The European Union is supporting the efforts of States Parties to fulfil their victim assistance commitments and to respond to the related challenges. The EU and its individual Member States have committed significant funds to victim assistance in many countries and regions of the world. Victim assistance is also one of the four priority areas the EU is advancing under its Council Decision of 2012 in support of the Cartagena Action Plan.

---

<sup>†</sup> 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.

<sup>‡</sup> Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

The EU Council Decision also provided resources for the Global Conference 'Bridges between Worlds' which took place in Medellin, Colombia in April 2014. The Conference advanced our understandings regarding synergies between victim assistance and broader human rights, disability, health, employment, development, and international humanitarian law contexts. Tomorrow, 25 June from 14.00-17.00 a side event devoted to "Bridges between Worlds: the Maputo edition" will build upon the outcomes of the Medellin conference. The event will be opened by HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium.

Mr. President,

Let me finally make some brief comments on victim assistance regarding the proposed outcome documents which will guide our work for the next review cycle.

The EU welcomes the focus that the proposed Maputo Action Plan puts on monitoring and supporting the implementation of the victim assistance commitments in a measurable and time bound way as well as on the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies and frameworks for disability and development.

We also welcome the proposal for the establishment of a Committee on Victim Assistance. The work of this committee should be closely linked to assisting States Parties in the implementation of the victim assistance actions of the action plan. As such, we believe that this proposal will strengthen the machinery to assist States Parties in translating their commitments on victim assistance into concrete progress on the ground. As mentioned in the Maputo Action Plan, we recognise the special partnerships in the universalization and implementation of the Convention with the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Thank you Mr. President