



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 for High Level Segment (political declaration)

Maputo, 26/27 June 2014

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**THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
EU statement for High Level Segment (political declaration)
Maputo, 26th /27th 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: Turkey*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia†, Montenegro†, Iceland‡, Serbia†, Albania†, Bosnia and Herzegovina† and the Republic of Moldova.

First of all let me thank you and the authorities of Mozambique for hosting this Conference, and all those who have worked very hard to make this event possible. We would also like to thank you personally Mr. President, for your dynamic, inclusive and transparent leadership, which will allow the Maputo Review Conference to be concluded successfully here tomorrow.

There is a special symbolism which brings us back to Maputo 15 years after the First Meeting of States Parties. Much success has been achieved since we first gathered in Mozambique in 1999. At the same time we recognize the remaining challenges, which require the concerted attention of all States Parties.

This Conference is a symbolic one also for the EU, as we are proud that for the first time at a Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention, today in Maputo, all 28 EU Member States are united in pursuing the objectives of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Mr President, today we are present to further reaffirm our shared commitment to ending the unnecessary suffering and casualties caused by the use of anti-personnel mines across the world. This is why we consider that it is an important occasion to go back to the "fundamentals" of the Ottawa Convention, and recall 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

* Candidate country

† 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.

mines. In particular, the EU is deeply concerned about allegations of use of anti-personnel mines by States Parties.

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. Together, the EU and its Member States have contributed more than 500 Million Euro since the last Review Conference in Cartagena, Columbia, making them the leading donor of international assistance in this area. In 2012, an EU Council Decision was agreed to provide financial support to the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan, and in several seriously affected countries, EU support has been decisive in reversing difficult situations.

The EU has always considered that this Third Review Conference represented 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. We believe that under Mozambique's stewardship we achieved those objectives and that the Maputo Action Plan will guide our work for the next review cycle in a focused and efficient way. We also believe that the adoption of the new and pragmatic machinery will further support the implementation process. The EU and its Member States will aim at making these structures function well.

In its Council Conclusions on the Maputo Review Conference adopted last week, the EU reiterated its 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, the EU 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.

We hereby reaffirm 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, in particular those benefiting from special partnership for the implementation of the Convention.

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.

Finally, let me conclude by congratulating the Sultanate of Oman for the excellent news that it will soon join the Convention. The personal involvement of our Special Envoy, HRH Princess Astrid, one of the members of the High Level EU Universalisation Task Force, is to be praised in this respect.

Thank you Mr. President.