

3rd Review Conference, Maputo, June 2014

United Kingdom Statement on Clearance of Mined Areas

Mr President,

I thank you for this opportunity to take the floor to provide an update on UK actions to implement clearance of mined areas in the Falkland Islands.

As delegations will be aware, the Falklands Islands pose a unique challenge for demining operations. The remote location, adverse weather conditions, concerns over the environment, incomplete Argentine minefield records and the tough financial climate are all factors the UK must contend with in taking forward this work.

Despite these many challenges, the UK remains committed to meeting our obligations in relation to the Falklands Islands. Up to this point, three successful phases of work have taken place, including both clearance of mined areas and land release. The work undertaken has been successful despite the many challenges. In sum, 974 anti-personnel mines and 600 anti-vehicle mines have now been removed from the Falklands.

Mr President,

Work is in hand that will take us closer to our goal of full clearance over the coming years. As part of this, we are planning a multi-year clearance project, which should start this coming Austral summer.

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We will be working with the Falklands Islands Government to decide the sequencing and timing of the minefields to be cleared. This will be a significant step in continuing to meet our clearance obligations, and we look forward to updating the States Parties with further details of the work in due course.

Thank you.

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