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NOTE

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| From: | Croatian delegation |
| To: | Council |
| Subject: | International Donors' Conference on Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine (Zagreb, 11-12 October 2023) |

The international donors' conference dedicated to the humanitarian demining of the Ukrainian territory was co-organised by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of Ukraine and was held in Zagreb on 11 and 12 October 2023.

On the first day of the Conference, opened by Prime Ministers of Croatia and Ukraine, ministers, ambassadors, other state officials and high representatives of 35 countries, the European Commission, UNDP, UNOPS, WFP, and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining reaffirmed their full support for Ukraine in the defence of its freedom, democracy, and a swift establishment of peace. They also sent a clear message that Ukraine can count on the broad support of the gathered international partners not only under the current circumstances, but also when it comes to the post-war humanitarian demining, which is an indispensable requirement for the gradual reconstruction of Ukrainian infrastructure and for the return of the displaced Ukrainian population.

As one of the consequences of Russia's aggression, it is estimated that approximately 174, 000 km² of the Ukrainian territory is covered in mines, which currently makes Ukraine the most mine-contaminated country in the world. This poses a direct threat to the safety of its citizens, as well as a challenge to the global food supply, since huge amount of the contaminated area covers arable land.

In this context, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko, informed the participants of the Conference about the everyday operational challenges of his country when it comes to mines and explosive ordnance resulting from the Russian aggression against Ukraine, while the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Yuliia Svyrydeenko, who co-chaired the Conference together with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia and Minister of the Interior Davor Božinović, provided a comprehensive presentation of the draft National Demining Strategy of Ukraine.

The announced Strategy received broad support from the participating stakeholders and many of them decided to support its implementation with concrete pledges amounting to several hundred millions of euros in total, including the Croatian contribution in the amount of 5 million EUR.

The second day of the Conference was dedicated to discussions of experts from the participating states, international and non-governmental organizations, as well as companies specializing in the production of demining machinery and equipment. A number of international partners presented their expertise in the mine action, while the Croatian experts produced a detailed account of their own 30 years' experience and potentials of the national demining system that Croatia is willing to engage in the post-war demining in Ukraine.

The next conference of this kind was announced to take place in Geneva in October 2024.

The outcomes of the International Donors' Conference on Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine in Zagreb have been summed up in the Conclusions of the Co-Chairs, which are enclosed to this document.

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DONORS'
CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN DEMINING IN UKRAINE**

ZAGREB, 11-12 OCTOBER 2023

The International Donors' Conference on Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine, which was held in Zagreb on 11 and 12 October 2023, brought together the ministers responsible for humanitarian demining and other representatives of Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, as well as Croatia and Ukraine as co-chairs of the Conference, and the European Commission, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, UNDP, UNOPS and WFP.

The Conference was held with the aim of contributing to decontamination from explosive ordnance (EO) resulting from the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Acknowledging the need for building peace and security;

Aware of the dangers that explosive ordnance pose to the civilian population, economy and environment in Ukraine;

Recognising the importance of assistance, support and cooperation in the area of mine action / and humanitarian demining as a precondition for post-war reconstruction in Ukraine and safety of its citizens;

Taking into account the immense importance of adequate financial, in-kind and other support as well as exchange of scientific and technological information in the area of mine action / humanitarian demining;

Noting the need for coordinated action at the international level for the purpose of mitigating and eliminating the harmful consequences of explosive ordnance and remnants in Ukraine;

Expressing the willingness and preparedness to assist and cooperate in the area of mine action / humanitarian demining;

Acting in line with national legislation and international and EU law, as applicable;

Supporting the efforts made by the UN and the international community, and respecting the international conventions and agreements in the area of mine action and humanitarian demining, as well as seeking to contribute to the alignment of the relevant Ukrainian legislation;

We, as the Co-Chairs of the International Donors' Conference on Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine, adopted the following:

CONCLUSIONS

The participants of the ministerial discussion have been made fully aware of the magnitude and gravity of mine contamination in Ukraine caused by the Russian aggression, as well as Ukraine's needs for the purpose of demining contaminated territory.

They have recognised the need for strengthening Ukrainian capacities for mine action/ humanitarian demining.

They have expressed their support for the implementation of the announced National Demining Strategy of Ukraine, focusing on the production of demining equipment, identifying demining priorities, establishing appropriate co-ordination mechanisms, and ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of funds, equipment and other means intended for these purposes.

They have expressed their willingness to continue responding to Ukraine's needs for a comprehensive demining process through the exchange of best practices, as well as workshops, seminars and other types of training in the area of mine action / humanitarian demining.

They have encouraged financial and/or other types of contribution and support for the Ukrainian efforts to enhance mine action / humanitarian demining, in compliance with the rules of international bodies and financial institutions.

The participants of expert thematic panels have examined different demining models suitable for Ukraine, and the capabilities and capacities for the provision of support to Ukraine's demining system, and have proposed the way forward for strengthening the Ukrainian demining capacities, expertise and co-ordination mechanisms.
