



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS TO THE OSCE, THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Statement by the Delegation of Cyprus

1055th Plenary Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation (20 September 2023)
Agenda Item 1, Security Dialogue: Mine Action

Thank you Madam Chair,

Cyprus aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Please allow me to add some comments in my national capacity. We welcome the holding of the first Security Dialogue at today's Forum for Security Co-operation under the Chairpersonship of Canada, on an issue which is undoubtedly both timely and relevant.

Cyprus attaches great importance to the focus of today's discussions, which is the threat to the safety and well - being of communities across the OSCE region and beyond by landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.

It goes without saying, that the presentations of the expert speakers have provided us with invaluable insight on this pressing issue. As Participating States, it is evident that we need to assess our national practices and strategies, in order to increase our effectiveness in the field of mine action.

Madam Chair,

Given the situation in Cyprus, we have established a Mine Action Center since 2003, which oversees the obligations of the Republic of Cyprus on mine issues and undertakes consultation, research and training.

As underlined in UNSCR 2365 (2017) partnership and cooperation are central to the success of mine action.

To this end, Cyprus responded immediately to the humanitarian request of Ukraine and to date, we have trained soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in Cyprus, in cooperation with Ireland, through the "Basic Demining and Clearance Course". Furthermore, we are planning to hold a 2nd Demining School, under the Polish Multinational Coordinating Training Command Center, in the forthcoming months, for the training of more servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate your Chairpersonship for bringing this humanitarian issue to the forefront of our discussions.

Thank you Madam Chair.