



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority

Afghanistan's Statement on Cooperation & Assistance

**APMBC MSPs
18-21 December 2017, Vienna, Austria**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to report on the activities and achievements of Afghanistan in relation to "Cooperation and Assistance" since the 15th MSP. We have south-south cooperation with the mine action programmes of Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Sudan, South Sudan, Colombia and recently with Turkey and Sudan. I would like to present some of the bilateral cooperation between Afghanistan and these programmes since the 15th Meeting of State Parties:

- 1) cooperation with our neighboring country, Tajikistan, takes multifaceted approach, varying from expertise sharing to facilitation of demining and quality management. Upon a request from the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) - Afghanistan; Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) agreed to dedicate two QM officers to conduct QA and QC on mine action activities on behalf of DMAC in Afghanistan-side of border area, where access from

Afghanistan is challenging due to geographical limitations. TNMAC QM officers were trained in Afghanistan Mine Action Standards and external QM by the DMAC prior to conducting QA and QC of demining projects near the Tajik border. I would like to thank the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre for their cooperation.

- 2) Tajikistan mine action centre also hosted a workshop called Legal Efficiency and Liability in Mine Action from 27 to 30 November 2017, the workshop was facilitated and funded by GICHD. It was part of regional cooperation between Persian speaking countries. A delegation of 14 people from Afghanistan attended the workshop in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- 3) A number of MAPA staff have been trained in Tajikistan in EOD level 1, 2 and 3 from May to September 2017 through different sessions. These series of EOD trainings were organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), funded by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA). Some Afghan and Tajik experts helped in delivery of these EOD training programs as co-instructors.
- 4) As part of regional cooperation, a delegation from MAPA was invited and participated in a workshop called "Quality Management and Information Management in Explosive Hazards Reduction" in Dushanbe Tajikistan. The MAPA delegation was specifically asked to share their experience with other regional countries (Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kirgizstan) in QMS and MIS in mine action. This workshop was organized by OSCE.
- 5) We have also extended this cooperation beyond the region. In May 2017, Afghanistan hosted two delegations from Turkey and Sudan mine action

authorities. It was an exchange visit where the MAPA provided an opportunity for the colleagues from the TURMAC and Sudan National Mine Action Authority to see the Afghan mine action programme processes such as planning, priority setting, non-technical survey, quality management system, information management and management of mine action operations. This exchange visit resulted in a request from TURMAC inviting an Afghan expert to share Afghanistan experience with Turkish programme; the Afghan expert visited Turkey during September and October this year to convene a detailed training on NTS requirements and process to TURMAC.

Thank you,