



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service

**First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention:
A Mine Free World by 2025: "THE LAST STRETCH"**

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

First of all, UNMAS expresses its congratulations to the Presidency of Chile, and appreciates in particular your leadership and outstanding work in Geneva behind the organization of the First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: A Mine Free World by 2025: "THE LAST STRETCH".

I would like to thank the panellists of the High Level Segment: H.E. Heraldo Munoz, H.E. Stephane Dion, H.E. Angela Holguin, Mr. Peter Maurer, Mr. Tommy Hall, Mr. Firoz Alizada, the Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Director Moller, for their insightful remarks.

Rest assured that UNMAS and will further support the Presidency in its endeavour.

Just two weeks ago, UNMAS organized the Nineteenth International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors, held at the Palais des Nations. This biggest annual meeting of mine action



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stakeholders registered a record number of more than 550 delegates, including representatives from States Parties to the Convention, the United Nations, civil society, as well as the private sector. The NDM-UN agenda was developed to inspire and equip national and international practitioners to embrace new challenges. During that same week, the Mine Action Support Group, chaired this year by Italy, discussed with donors latest developments and current needs of several States Parties such as Angola, Colombia, Iraq, and Yemen.

Recalling the Maputo final outcome document that recognizes the essential role of the United Nations in mine action, and echoing the General Assembly that calls upon States in a position to do so to support mine affected States, UNMAS, as coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system, reiterates its willingness to further assist affected States.



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Madam President

It is true that our overall objective should be a world free of landmines, and thanks to your diligent leadership, the States Parties ought to be able to head to the accomplishment of the 2025 final goal, hopefully without facing major challenges, especially financial ones. Funding shortages are a major contributing factor causing States Parties to miss their annual clearance targets. From Operational Paragraph 3 (c), of the resolution mentioned earlier, the General Assembly urges all to provide: “ [...] Reliable, predictable, timely and, where possible, multi-annual contributions for mine action activities, including through national mine action efforts and mine action programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, including those relating to rapid response in humanitarian emergencies, victim assistance and mine risk education, especially at the local level, as well as through relevant national, regional and global trust funds, including the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action [...]”.



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To conclude, on matters related to the APMBC, the United Nations, in particular UNMAS, continues to strongly advocate for the universalization of the Convention and compliance with its legal provisions. And, resources permitting, UNMAS will continue to listen to, train, advise, and equip States Parties with the expertise and means needed to realize our shared vision of a world free of landmines

Thank you.