

**Second International Pledging Conference for the
Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 28 February 2017**

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

First, let me thank the key note speakers and panellists for sharing their insightful ideas and relevant information.

Estonia warmly welcomes your initiative, Mr President, for convening the Second International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We recognise, that although the Ottawa Convention became an international norm quickly after its entry into force, financing its implementation has been a challenge over the past years. Thus, we fully support your efforts to ensure a healthy financing mechanism for implementing the Convention.

Estonia is a firm supporter of humanitarian demining activities and mine action and has been regularly contributing to demining efforts for more than 10 years. In recent years we have increased our contributions, including financial support to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), as well as to clean-up of various explosive remnants of war and mine-clearance activities under several bilateral and international humanitarian projects. Recently the Estonian government redoubled its annual contribution to UNMAS mine action activities in Iraq (*40 000 USD*). Estonia has previously supported mine action in Mali, Gaza, Libya, Libanon and Afghanistan.

Since 2006, we have also regularly supported and gradually increased our contributions to the Ottawa Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in achieving its mandate-based targets. In 2017, Estonia will provide support to ISU in the amount of 5000 euros.

Estonia stands ready to look further into financing mechanisms of the ISU when the States Parties are ready to do so. Let me assure you that the current President of the Convention, Austria, has our full support and we look forward to working with you in bringing the mine-free world closer to reality.

Thank you!