

**Second International Pledging Conference for the  
Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

**Geneva, 28 February 2017**

**EU Statement**

Mr. President,

1. I would like to express the European Union's appreciation for your leadership in promoting the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, and for renewing and strengthening our collective commitments for international mine action.
2. The EU and its 28 Member States continue to provide significant contributions to mine action projects in heavily affected countries and areas around the world. In 2015, the EU signed new contracts to support mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Croatia, the Gaza strip, Guinea (Conakry), India, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, the Philippines, Syria and Ukraine. These projects, amounting to a committed total of more than 40 million Euro, cover the whole scope of mine action: clearance, stockpile destruction, risk education, advocacy and capacity building. Besides projects in third countries, the EU has invested, through its research programmes, more than 20 million Euro in research and development of innovative equipment for identification and clearance of mines.
3. For the European Union, a strong proponent of multilateralism, the universalisation and implementation of the Ottawa Convention is one of its main priorities in the area of human security and disarmament.
4. Back in 2012, EU Ministers adopted a Council Decision to support universal adherence to the Ottawa Convention and implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan with concrete activities worth of more than 1 million Euro. The European Union is now preparing a new similar Council Decision which will enable the Convention's Implementation Support Unit to support national planning and reporting on mine clearance in up to five affected States Parties that have upcoming mine clearance deadlines in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The project will also support States Parties to embed the victim assistance aspects of the Maputo Action Plan in an integrated policy which is linked with national policies on human rights and the rights of persons with disabilities. In addition, the project will also support the Presidency of the Convention and a High Level Task Force to engage non-States Parties at a high level. Finally, the project will support States Parties in reaching their commitments with regard to stockpile destruction. We expect that the Council Decision be adopted and project implementation can start in the upcoming months.
5. To conclude, Mr. President, the EU is fully committed to supporting the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, notably through support to the implementation of the Actions of the Maputo Action Plan. Financial contributions ensure the functioning of the Convention and are an important part of States Parties' commitments.

Thank you, Mr. President