

Statement by Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director of the GICHD

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

Mr. President,

Thank you for welcoming us to this second pledging conference for the Implementation of the APMBC. Last year's pledging conference was a success, allowing us to strengthen the Convention and the ISU's resources. We look forward to another successful conference this year. As you yourself have stated, it is of the utmost importance that the support to the implementation of the Convention is guaranteed by a strong and sustainable architecture.

The GICHD is committed to the current architecture and to the ISU in particular, which is delivering tremendous support to States Parties with limited resources. The Centre is proud to support a well-functioning and cost-efficient ISU, in accordance with the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD. We are convinced of the benefits for all of hosting and collaborating with the ISU, while fully respecting its independence.

The GICHD provides in-kind support to the ISU – such as office space and IT infrastructure. But the respective nature of our work lends itself to further forms of cooperation, for example in the context of supporting the development of extension requests.

The ISU and the GICHD have on several occasions joined forces to support States in the development of their MA strategic plans, which do serve as a basis for and complement to their extension requests. Having a strategic plan in place is instrumental in enabling States to meet their completion targets under the Convention. A recent effort in Zimbabwe is a good example of this type of cooperation.

Another good example is the fruitful partnership between the GICHD, the ISU and our partners in Thailand, including NPA, concerning the implementation of a baseline survey project. The results of the baseline survey will – again – inform the development of Thailand's extension request.

We very much look forward to continuing this fruitful cooperation, for the benefit of the Centre, of the ISU and – most importantly – of an efficient implementation of the Convention.

Thank you Mr. President.