



## **Statement by Turkey**

### **FIRST INTERNATIONAL PLEDGING CONFERENCE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION 28 FEBRUARY 2017**

#### **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Thank you Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that I take the floor under your presidency let me at the outset congratulate you. You can count on our support.

Let me also add my voice to the other speakers in thanking you for convening this second Pledging Conference today and the distinguished speakers for their remarks. I also would like to thank the former Presidency of Chili, the ISU and Australia as the coordinator of the sponsorship program for their outstanding work.

Mr. President,

Turkey strongly supports efforts for a world free of landmines. In that regard Turkey became a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction in 2004. Our common aim is to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines that kill or maim, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate that my country is determined to fulfil its commitments emanating from the Ottawa Convention.

Mr. President,

Our voluntary financial contributions to the functioning of this forum has been humble yet consistent over the years.

In this vein, we again intend to support the Sponsorship Program and ISU budget in 2017 as we did in the previous years, but it is still under consideration. We will duly provide information when the procedure is completed.

Thank you Mr. President.