

Statement by Norway at the third annual pledging conference for the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention 28 February 2018

Madame President,

Let me first congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Norway is a strong supporter of the Convention and I believe your voice representing an affected country adds important perspectives to our work under the Convention.

Last year we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention in Oslo. Much has been achieved since then, but there is still much work ahead of us in order to reach the goal of a mine free world by 2025. We should make maximum use of the lessons learned over the past two decades as we jointly work to implement the Convention.

Norway welcomes the work carried out by the ISU, including in supporting States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. I am therefore pleased to announce that **Norway will make a voluntary contribution of 295 000 Norwegian kroner, equivalent to thirty five thousand Swiss francs to the operation of the ISU in 2018.**

Norway continues to place high priority on implementing the Convention in the field and is proud to support mine action in 20 countries worldwide. We will contribute around 38 million US Dollars to mine action globally this year, with an emphasis on survey activities and mine clearance in affected states, as well as assistance to mine survivors. We will continue to give priority to countries that demonstrate strong national ownership and clear progress towards completion.

Thank you.