

**Fourth Annual Pledging Conference**  
**Statement by the Director of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**  
**Implementation Support Unit**

Your Excellency Mr. Audun Halvorsen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Your Excellency Hans Brattskar, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to start by thanking all of you for joining us today and for all of your kind expressions of support over the years to the ISU.

For the ISU it is a pleasure to implement our mandate of providing support to the President and the Convention office holders in implementing their respective mandates, to support states with the implementation of their commitments under the Convention and to work with all of our partners (the ICBL, ICRC, the UN and humanitarian demining operators and organization working on matters concerning victim assistance and the rights of person with disabilities) to ensure that our joint aim of fulling implementation of the Convention are reached as soon as possible. The ISU very much appreciates working with committed organization and individuals such as our colleague Amelie Chayer of the ICBL who will unfortunately be departing her post at the end of this month.

This is an important year, with the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on 1 March 2019 and the Fourth Review Conference to be held in Oslo at the end of this year.

It is also a time when States and partners are getting to work to look at the way we do business and see where we can make adjustments to get us closer to meeting our 2025 aspirations. And it really fantastic for the ISU to be a part of this.

In the last couple of years the ISU reached a number of important milestones: with your contributions we achieved our goal of ensuring that we have in place a financial security buffer equal to 100% of an annual budget of the ISU, with your generous support we were also able to provide support to State Parties in their victim assistance efforts through “enhanced support”.

Last year we received contributions from 24 States Parties (including Austria, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and United Kingdom.) these states are listed in one of the documents you received today. Not only did these States answer the call to fund our core work plan but they also answered the call, once again, to ensure that additional funding is made available to dedicate to “Enhanced Support” concerning victim assistance in 2020.

We also thank our host Switzerland, for its support to our work through, not only their contribution to the voluntary trust fund but also their contribution to GICHD to cover other costs of the ISU (office space, financial and human resource support) as well as the GICHD for its continued support in hosting the ISU.

The 2019 Work Plan and budget adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties totals CHF 514'513 for “Core Support”. As you can appreciate from our work plan, 89% of this amount is designated for salaries of staff member and 11% for activities of the unit including communications, translation, short term support,, public relations and other support costs. In addition to this a total of up to 116,118 CHF has been allotted from the 2017 surplus funding to Enhanced Support in Victim Assistance.

**With this said, I now hand over the floor to my colleague Ms. Sophie Delfolie, to give you an overview of the main activities of our work plan for 2019.**

In addition to the activities Sophie has mentioned, as many of you know, the ISU is honoured to be in the process of implementing an EU Council Decision in support of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan. We are looking forward to implementing a number of activities this year related to implementation of the Council Decision. Including supporting Jordan in hosting a global conference on Victim assistance in September of this year.

This year, with the support of the President and members of the coordinating committee the ISU will be drafting its 5 year work plan 2020-2024. The drafting of a 5 year plan was introduced in order to encourage States to offer contributions on a multi-annual basis. Some of you already do so and we appreciate this. As ISU

operates solely on voluntary contributions, multi annual contributions as well as your pledges of support, offer us the certainty for us to carry out our work with Confidence.

We do not for one second take your contributions for granted, no matter the size of your contributions. Our doors at the ISU are of course always open for any information you would like concerning the operation of the ISU.

Thank you.