

Fourth Annual Pledging Conference 26 February 2019
Presentation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 2019 Work Plan

Your Excellency, Mr. Audun Halvorsen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Your Excellency Hans Brattskar,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to be here with you today and to be able to say a few words about the ISU's activities this year.

It is within the framework of our mandate just recalled by Juan Carlos that all ISU's work plans are developed. This ensures a certain degree of continuity in the ISU's work and in the support that we provide to you and the Convention. The office holders that we support however are different every year and they guide where the emphasis of the work should be placed.

If you allow me I would like to point out some of the key objectives of the ISU work plan this year:

- Firstly, one of our main objectives in 2019 is to provide support to the President. We will work with Norway and give support and advice on all areas of the President's mandate which includes universalization, stockpile destruction and reporting. And because this year is a Review Conference year, we will also provide support and advice to the President in the development of the set of documents that will be adopted by the Review Conference.
- Secondly, we will continue supporting the Convention's four Committees to ensure that they are able to implement their respective mandates related to the Convention's objectives of mine clearance, victim assistance, cooperation and assistance and compliance. This work involves support to the 17 states which together make up the membership of these four Committees as well as all the initiatives that the Committees may want to take.
- Thirdly, the ISU will continue the support we provide to individual States Parties in the implementation of their Convention obligations and their commitments under the Maputo Action Plan including the 31 States Parties that have mine clearance obligations. In particular, this year the ISU will provide support and advice to 16 States in the development of requests for extension of mine clearance deadlines and declarations of completion (the ISU will advise 8 with clearance deadlines in 2020¹ and 6 with deadlines in 2021² and up to 2 States for their declarations of completion).

The ISU will also ensure that follow up is carried with respect to 5 States Parties³ that have been granted extensions and have been asked to come back in 2019 with updated work plans or updated information on the implementation of Article 5.

The ISU will also continue providing support to States Parties on reporting as this has been identified as an issue by the Committees and the President that needs improving. In this regard, the ISU will continue its support to the Committee on the Enhancement of

¹Argentina, Cambodia, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Tajikistan and Yemen.

²BiH, Colombia, DRC, Senegal, South Sudan and Ukraine.

³Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

Cooperation and Assistance in their efforts to develop an online reporting tool as well as support individual States Parties in preparing their transparency reports.

- Another area of support includes the individualised approach developed by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. This approach provides interested affected States with a platform to discuss their remaining challenges and connect with relevant stakeholders in order to fulfil their remaining obligations in an effective and expedient way. In this context, we'll support the participation of relevant States Parties in these activities in 2019.
- In addition to these matters the ISU will spend a good portion of its time supporting the efforts of the President and the Committees in preparing for the Convention's meetings: the intersessional meetings (22-24 May 2019), two preparatory meetings for the Review Conference (24 May and 18 September) and the Fourth Review Conference itself (25-29 November). We will also ensure that the proceedings and decisions of these meetings are recorded, made available to all and followed up on.

We also intend to continue our coordination with all relevant partners and we will communicate on the achievements of the Convention through the Convention's website as well as through our social media channels. This year, a special focus will be given to promoting the Fourth Review Conference and celebrating the Convention's 20th anniversary.

The ISU is also working to provide enhanced support to the States Parties in the area of victim assistance as highlighted in the four-year work plan. This work includes providing relevant States Parties with advice on reporting on victim assistance and acting on Maputo Action Plan victim assistance commitments, including more specific in-country support in up to 5 States Parties which would benefit most on these issues.

These are in short, the main areas of work for the ISU in 2019, should any of you require more information on our activities, we would be more than happy to provide more details to you.

Thank you.