

Statement by Sweden at the 4th APLC Pledging Conference 2019

Mr President,

Allow me first to congratulate you on the important role as President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and assure you of my delegation's full support for your important task this year.

We would like to thank Norway for organizing this conference. It's the fourth time such a conference has been organized and we think it's useful in increasing transparency and to increase and retain awareness of the need to sustainable finance humanitarian mine action.

Mr President,

Sweden has over the past few years been one of the major contributors to the ISU, a key component of the framework supporting implementation and the operation of the convention, in providing at least 500 000 Swedish Kronor per year, corresponding to some 60-70 000 Swiss Francs depending on the exchange rate, all as core funding. I am pleased to confirm our intention to continue our voluntary contributions to the ISU. We expect to be able to take a decision on allocating a sum of up to 500 000 Swedish Kronor – at present approximately 60 000 Swiss Francs - to be used in 2019 for the running activities of the ISU.

Mr President,

Sweden has contributed around 100 million EUR to mine action worldwide over the last decade. I am pleased to note that Sida, the Swedish development authority, decided in 2018 on a new programme for Mine Action, to be implemented by Danish Demining Group (DDG) and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in up to 15 affected countries, with a total budget of 280 MSEK or approx. 28 million EUR over 4 years. Furthermore, Sida decided to support UNMAS with 75 MSEK or approx.. 7,5 million EUR for Mine Action in Iraq between January 2019 to June 2020. Last week Sida also decided on a four year project for GICHD, providing core support of 2,8 million CHF. This represents more than a doubling of the support provided during the previous phase.

We also call upon all to pay their invoices for costs arising out of meetings of the convention and that any state that are in arrears, to pay them in full as soon as possible.

Sweden is firmly committed to the principles of the convention, implementing our own obligations as well as providing substantial practical support to other states parties to do likewise. We expect to continue this until we have a world free of anti-personnel land mines.

Thank you.