

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Pledging Conference
25.2.2020**

**Statement of Austria
Amb. Robert Müller**

Mr. President,

As this is the first formal meeting under your presidency, allow me first to congratulate you and assure you of Austria's full support.

Austria wishes to seize this opportunity to reaffirm my country's full commitment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Every day the Convention's impressive accomplishments make a difference on the ground. The Oslo Action Plan agreed last November provides an excellent implementation guideline for the next five years.

Keeping in mind the victims of these horrendous weapons, we can be proud that today, 164 States have legally committed to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. To this end Austria recently contributed EUR 3 Mio. to mine action efforts in Ukraine and Syria. When it comes to future contributions to mine action, we will inform States Parties at a later stage as the federal budget of Austria is currently under consideration and will be approved at a later stage.

Upholding the norm against anti-personnel land mines is vital. Austria firmly condemns any use of anti-personnel mines anywhere and by any actor, as also reflected in our joint Oslo Declaration adopted at the 5th Review Conference.

Mr. President,

Austria highly values the important work of the ISU and we thank Juan Carlos Ruan and his team for their dedicated work. A well functioning secretariate is an important component of advancing implementation. Austria thus contributed EUR 10.000 at the very end of 2019. Only last week, Austria already transferred another EUR 10.000 - our contribution to the 2020 ISU budget.

Austria believes that participation of affected states is key to implementation. We are delighted to announce a contribution of EUR 5.000 to the sponsorship programme. Allow me to also thank Australia for their hard work as sponsorship coordinator.