

## Statement by Ambassador Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director

Fifth International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the APMBC  
Palais des Nations, Room XI, 25 February 2020

Mr. President,

Thank you for welcoming us to this fifth Pledging Conference for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

The GICHD is committed to supporting the Convention's implementation machinery and particularly the Implementation Support Unit, which is delivering tremendous and constant support to the States Parties. To this end, the Centre is proud to host and support a well-functioning and cost-efficient ISU, in accordance with the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD.

For many years now, and thanks to the support from Switzerland, the GICHD has provided in-kind support to the ISU such as office space and IT infrastructure – at no costs to the States Parties.

In addition to this logistical and administrative support, a fruitful cooperation has taken place at a more substantial level. Two examples:

- In 2019, the Centre reviewed and provided technical advice on the Article 5 extension requests of three States Parties: Cambodia, Tajikistan and Yemen.
- Still in 2019, the GICHD supported Angola in developing its national mine action strategy 2020-2025 through an inclusive and participatory process. Angola's new strategy is aligned with its latest Article 5 extension request and highlights relevant actions within the Oslo Action Plan adopted at the Fourth Review Conference in November. We worked together with the ISU during this process.

The cooperation between the ISU and the GICHD at both logistical and substantial levels is set to continue in the coming years, not least as we – as a sector – will work collectively towards the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan. Rest assured that the GICHD will continue to play its part.

Thank you.