



**Fifth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Geneva 25 February 2019

President,

I am very pleased to take the floor this afternoon at this Fifth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you Ambassador on your designation as President-designate of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, and for chairing our meeting today. I am pleased to reaffirm Ireland's continued commitment to full universalisation and implementation of the Convention and to the goal of a mine free world by 2025.

President,

The annual pledging conferences are an important occasion to mobilise financial resources for the effective implementation of the Ottawa Convention objectives. Ireland is concerned about the financial challenges facing the

Convention, and urges all States to fulfil their financial obligations on time and in full.

The pledging conferences also provide an opportunity to renew and strengthen our collective commitments for cooperation and assistance with regard to mine action. The 2019 Oslo Review Conference enabled the international community to look back at the progress made since the Third Review Conference, to identify remaining and emerging challenges, and commit to redoubling our efforts to achieve the aims of the Convention.

The recently agreed Oslo Action plan offers a comprehensive pathway towards achieving the goals of the Convention, and Ireland particularly welcomes the integration of gender considerations in the Plan, ably achieved under the Norwegian Presidency of the Review Conference.

President,

Ireland has a long-standing history of commitment to humanitarian demining as reflected in our ongoing development partnerships. Since 2006, we have contributed over €45 million to humanitarian mine action. In 2019, we contributed €3.2 million Euro for mine action in Afghanistan, Colombia, Somalia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam. This year we plan to allocate another €3.2 million to our humanitarian demining partners.

Ireland remains fully committed to the equal participation of women and men in the work of the Convention and, to this end, in 2019 we provided €5,000 to Mines Action Canada's Fellows Project, which supports the participation of young women in the work of the Convention.

In addition to our direct mine-action work, Ireland has been a long-term supporter of the ISU whose effective functioning is crucial to the implementation of the Convention. In 2019, we contributed €20,000 to support the work of the ISU and, given the importance of the ISU's work, we plan to allocate a similar amount in 2020.

President,

Ireland welcomes this pledging conference and wishes it every success in reaching the funding goals required for the effective implementation of our Convention at this time.

Thank you.