

## **ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS,**

**30 June – 2 July 2020**

### **STATEMENT OF SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR (AUSTRALIA)**

Dear Colleagues.

Australia is pleased to be serving as Sponsorship Programme Coordinator again in 2020.

The Sponsorship Programme of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is essential to the work of the Convention. It enables participation in the meetings of the Convention and direct interaction with the Convention's Committees by capital and field-based experts from States Parties with limited means.

Such participation supports our joint commitment to the implementation of the Convention by States Parties, allowing a space to share challenges, best practices and lessons learned. The Sponsorship Programme also enables the participation of States not party to provide updates of their official position on the Convention.

In 2019, thanks to the contributions provide by Austria, Canada, France, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Turkey and Australia we were able to sponsor 47 participants to attend the 2019 Intersessional Meetings and the Fourth Review Conference, a quarter of whom were women.

At the beginning of 2020, the Programme had approximately CHF24,500 left available to it. Since that time, the Programme has received contributions from

Austria, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey and Australia and expects to receive a further contribution through an arrangement with Canada and Switzerland.

We take this opportunity to thank those States for their generous contributions. Today, the total funding received by the Programme amounts to a little over CHF 115'000. Of course, this year, unfortunately, with the onset of the global pandemic we were not able to launch a Sponsorship Programme for the Intersessional Meetings.

With this funding, we will be able to sponsor approximately 32 delegates to attend the 18MSP. As we progress in our efforts to implement the Oslo Action Plan, we must stay true to its content and redouble our effort to ensure its implementation. This means we must also use the Sponsorship Programme to make our conversation more robust, whether that be increasing sponsorship numbers to attend thematic meetings ahead of or on the margins of Convention Meetings or employing it to ensure equal involvement of women and mine survivors in the work of the Convention. We have an opportunity before us to strengthen our dialogue between us to ensure our continued successful implementation of the Convention. The Sponsorship Programme plays an important role in this effort.

We would therefore welcome more States Parties to provide contributions to the Sponsorship Programme. Given that the average delegate cost to attend and MSP is reasonably low - between CHF 3,500-4,500 - even relatively small contributions to the Programme by States Parties will have a significant, direct impact.

Thank you Mr. President and congratulations to you for the successful meetings this week.