

**First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention :  
A Mine Free World by 2025: «THE LAST STRETCH»**



## Background

In the *Maputo +15 Declaration* States Parties affirmed the “ambition to ensure that there are no new mine victims in areas under our jurisdiction or control, to see that survivors participate in their societies on an equal basis to others, and to intensify our efforts to complete our respective time-bound obligations with the urgency that the completion work requires”. A declaration was made to “**meet these goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025**”.

On the eve of the Convention’s Seventeenth Year after entry into force, the Convention has made great strides in addressing the scourge of anti-personnel mines moving towards putting an “end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mine”. We have saved thousands of lives, improved the lives of millions and more than 48 million mines have been destroyed. Much remains to be done but the end is in sight. **We are now in The Last Stretch towards a mine-free world!**

## Purpose

The First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, 2 March 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Palais de Nations, Room XXV, 15:00 – 18:00**.

The purpose of the Pledging Conference is to renew and strengthen commitment to the principles of the AP Mine Ban Convention and to commit resources for implementation.

The Pledging Conference seeks specifically to encourage States Parties to the Convention to pledge the necessary financial resources to the functioning of its Implementation Support Unit in conformity with the four-year Work Plan and Budget adopted in 2015, including support for the Convention’s Sponsorship Programme. It also provides the opportunity for traditional and non-traditional donors to pledge their support to Mine Action at an international level as well as their support to specific country operations through bilateral and multilateral arrangements, including through partnerships for completion with States Parties which are currently implementing key provisions of the Convention. Lastly, mine-affected States Parties are encouraged to announce their own national commitment and budget arrangements to their national Mine Action programmes.

## The High-level Segment and the Pledging Conference

To walk **The Last Stretch** and arrive at a mine-free world by 2025 will require commitment on the part of all: States Parties to the Convention, countries engaged in mine action, civil society organizations and academics alike.

**Presidency of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties**  
c/o AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

**A High-level segment (HLS) of global leaders will launch the Pledging Conference to project their vision on “What does it take to get to a mine-free world by 2025?”. This exchange will be followed by announcements on pledges and statements of commitment by participating States Parties, donors and others (2-3 minutes).**

#### **Format**

The Conference will be opened by Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva with the High-level Segment panel running in the first hour, followed by statements by State Parties. The High-level Segment will be chaired by H.E. Hernando Muñoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile. Kofi Annan, Founder and Chairman of the Kofi Annan Foundation and former Secretary-General of the United Nations will address the HLS as Special Guest.

H.E. Hernando Muñoz will be accompanied on the HLS panel by H.E. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, H.E. María Ángela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mrs. Tammy Hall, Head of Danish Demining Group, and Firoz Alizada, Campaigns and Communications Manager at International Campaign to Ban Landmines, who will provide their vision on **The Last Stretch**.

States representatives will then be invited to announce pledges and commitments (maximum 2-3 minutes each).

The Pledging Conference will take place in room XXV of the Palais des Nations, from 15:00 to 18:00.

## **A Mine Free World by 2025: “The Last Stretch”**

**Presidency of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties**  
c/o AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit