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**1st Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the
Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention**

2 March 2016

Austrian Statement

Madame President,

First of all let me congratulate you on holding this meeting in such a political way.

We have just followed with great interest a very rich discussion on what it takes to get to a mine-free world by 2025. Austria shares the conviction that a mine-free world can indeed be realized. In accordance with the spirit in which this Convention was founded, it is our obligation to be ambitious. As has been pointed out today, much success has already been achieved. In order to tackle the remaining challenges, the concerted attention of all State Parties is required to fulfil our shared political target - a date by which our planet will be free from the dangers of APMs, a date by which we will have no new mine casualties.

The Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention has always been dear to my country and myself. Since its earliest days, Austria has been a staunch supporter of a ban on this heinous weapon. In

this vein, Chile and you, Marta personally, can count on Austria's full support in the dynamic exercise of the presidency of the Convention, which we are looking forward to take over from you in 2017, building further on your accomplishments.

For many years, besides lending political support to the Convention, Austria has also contributed in cooperation projects as well as financially to its implementation in a number of African, Asian and European countries and will continue to do so.

Today, we are called upon to announce our contribution to the ISU in 2016. We hope that the recent decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU will prove to be a sustainable solution for the funding of the ISU. It is particularly important that the decision makes it clear that "all States Parties should consider it a duty to make contributions to the budget of the ISU". We agree that the ISU has been providing invaluable services to the Convention, so we have to contribute to the funding necessary for the provision of these services.

Madame President,

Even in times of budgetary restraints, we will not cease our support and continue our commitment as best as we can. I am happy to be able to announce that Austria is in a position to contribute an amount of 10.000 dollars to the implementation support unit's budget for the year 2016. Let me also use the opportunity to announce that this year, Austria will ~~pay an~~

Continue to contribute to the sponsorship programme.