

**First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Geneva, 2 March 2016

**Statement by Ambassador Patricia O'Brien
Permanent Representative of Ireland**

Madam President,

Thank you for your leadership. I would also like to thank Minister Muñoz for chairing the High-Level Segment earlier. Both his and your leadership are a reflection of the commitment and energy which Chile is bringing to its Presidency of the Convention.

I would also like to thank the previous Belgian Presidency for putting in place the new arrangements for the implementation of the Convention. It is our belief that these arrangements, including this Pledging Conference, will be instrumental in meeting our ambitious goal, to achieve a mine – free world by 2025.

At Maputo we adopted an ambitious timeframe. It is now up to States Parties to walk The Last Stretch towards a world where there are no new mine victims and where survivors' participation in their societies is assured. Mine clearance is essential to this process and Ireland, as current Chair of the Article 5 Committee, is pleased to contribute actively to this important aspect of our work, with the expert assistance of the ISU.

Ireland has a strong history of commitment to humanitarian de-mining which we include in our ongoing development partnerships. Most recently we have committed 4 million Euro for mine action in Afghanistan, Somaliland and Zimbabwe. We are proud to have been a long term donor to Mozambique's successful achievement of its mine free status, which was one of 2015's great success stories in disarmament. Last year we were pleased to make a contribution to Slovenia's ITF for mine clearance activities in the Western Balkans. Ireland also welcomes and supports civil society action in support of our Convention and is pleased to see the strong civil society presence at our Conference this afternoon.

Ireland has been a long term supporter of the ISU, whose effective functioning we regard as crucial to the implementation of the Convention, and have made regular voluntary contributions to support its activities. While we will continue

with this commitment, our strong wish would be to see the basis for ISU funding move from being entirely voluntary to a mixed system of mandated and voluntary funding such as the one recently been adopted for the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Arms Trade Treaty.

Madam President,

Ireland wishes this Pledging Conference every success in reaching its funding goals. I am happy to inform the meeting that Ireland is pledging an amount of Euro 25,000 in support of the ISU for 2016.

Thank you.