



SVERIGES  
STÄNDIGA REPRESENTATION

Genève

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Veronika Bard  
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations at Geneva**

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

**Wednesday 2 March 2016**

Your Excellency,

Allow me first to congratulate you on the important role as President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and assure you of my delegation's full support for your important task this year.

We welcomed the initiative for this conference and agree with the purposes to renew and strengthen commitment to the principles of the convention as well as ensuring that resources are allocated for its implementation.

A key actor, tasked with facilitating and overseeing the implementation of the convention and the Maputo Action Plan, is the convention's Implementation Support Unit. We were therefore very concerned when the financial figures for 2014 revealed a structural deficit which, if not corrected, would put the continued existence of the ISU at risk.

As we understand it, the financial situation is now much improved and I would like to express Sweden's strong appreciation for those who have made this development possible, especially the previous presidency of the convention with ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe of Belgium and his team, as well as of course the staff of the ISU, who had a tough year in 2015 and yet delivered excellent service to the convention and its member states.

Your Excellency,

One of the main purposes of this conference is to raise funds for the ISU to ensure that it can continue to serve us all.



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Due to national financial regulations I am neither able to make a multi-year commitment, nor, at this early time of the year, a formal commitment for funding to the ISU. However, Sweden has over the past few years been one of the major contributors to the ISU, providing at least 500 000 Swedish Kronor per year, corresponding to some 60-70 000 Swiss Francs depending on the exchange rate, all as core funding.

While we are currently unable to make a formal commitment, it is our firm intention to continue our voluntary contributions to the ISU. We hope to be able to take a decision later in the year on allocating a sum of up to 500 000 Swedish Kronor – at present approximately 60 000 Swiss Francs - to be used in 2016 for the running activities of the ISU.

Your Excellency,

With regard to other support for mine action, Sweden has contributed over 100 million EUR to mine action worldwide over the last decade. In mine affected countries, Sweden has also supported sustainable health care, infrastructure and personnel and to medical education, training and services, exceeding altogether 100 million EUR over a recent five-year period.

Sweden is firmly committed to the principles of the convention, implementing our own obligations as well as providing substantial practical support to other states parties to do likewise. We expect to continue this until we have a world free of anti-personnel land mines. We look forward to work with you all to achieve this during the Last Stretch 2025.

Thank you

