



Third Annual Pledging Conference Statement by the Director of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

His Excellency, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chair of the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan, Her Excellency, Dr. Suraya Dalil, Excellencies, dear Colleagues

The 2018 work plan and budget adopted by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties totals CHF 502'762 for what the States Parties have designated as “core support”. As you can appreciate from our work plan, 90% of this amount is designated for salaries of staff members and 10% for activities of the unit including travel and other matters.

The ISU continues its implementation of its “core support” activities with total personnel of 2.6 full time equivalent staff members.

We are extremely grateful for the support from States Parties over the last few years, which has allowed us to carry out our work without having to spend too much time being concerned with our financial situation. Over the last two years contributions from States Parties have fully covered the ISU’s “core support” efforts as well as provided additional funding which has allowed the Financial Security Buffer established by the 14MSP to reach the targeted level - equivalent to one year of ISU expenditures related to core support - and ensured that additional funding to be dedicated to what the States Parties have designated as “enhanced support” concerning victim assistance in 2018.

The level of support received from States Parties in 2017 has again been sufficient to see that enhanced support is possible in 2019. We are looking forward to distributing our final annual report to all of you in the next weeks.

We would like to sincerely thank you to the 26 States Parties that have ensured that we receive necessary financial resources for our effective operation in line with the Maputo Action Plan (Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom). We also would like to thank our hosts Switzerland for its support to our work through their contribution and through the grant to GICHD as well as to the Director and staff of the GICHD for the continued support in hosting the ISU.

Now I have the pleasure of offering the floor to my colleagues, Sophie Delfolie to offer you a short introduction to some of our objectives for 2018

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In addition to the activities Sophie has mentioned, as many of you know, the ISU is honoured to be in the process of implementing the EU Council Decision in support of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan.

In addition to other activities the EU Council Decision includes support to State in the implementation of mine clearance and victim assistance commitments as well as activities in the area of universalisation.

Through funding provided in the Council Decision, additional human resources have been recruited for its implementation. This is a three year project and we look forward to ensuring that the States Parties and others are kept well abreast of progress in its implementation. We also look forward to working with our partners in its implementation.

Once again, thank you very much to all of you, and the doors of the ISU are always open for any information you may want or need.

Thank you very much.