

Mr President,

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 would like to thank Afghanistan for organizing this conference. We would also like to put on record our appreciation of the excellent service delivered to the convention and its member states by the Implementation Support Unit, a key actor, tasked with facilitating and overseeing the implementation of the convention and the Maputo Action Plan.

Mr President,

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. I am pleased to confirm our intention to continue our voluntary contributions to the ISU. We expect to be able to take a decision in the near future on allocating a sum of up to 500 000 Swedish Kronor – at present approximately 60 000 Swiss Francs - to be used in 2018 for the running activities of the ISU.

We have also received and paid the invoice from the UN for conference costs for 2018. We strongly call upon all states that have yet to pay in full their outstanding invoices from previous years, to carry out the payment without further delay.

Mr President,

Sweden has contributed around 100 million EUR to mine action worldwide over the last decade. I am pleased to note that Sida, the Swedish development authority, has recently decided on a new programme for Mine Action, to be implemented by Danish Demining Group (DDG) and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in up to 15 affected countries, with a total budget of 320 MSEK or approx. 32 million EUR over 3 years.

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.

Thank you.