



Statement by Switzerland

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

Geneva, 27 February 2018

***H.E. Ms Sabrina Dallafior
Permanent Representative of Switzerland
to the Conference on Disarmament***

Madame President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you for your appointment as President of the Convention's 17th Meeting of States Parties, and for the organisation of this 3rd International Pledging Conference. The assumption by Afghanistan of the presidency is testimony to its long-standing commitment to the convention and its unrelenting efforts to address the challenges posed by mines in this country. Let me assure you of Switzerland's full support for our work during your presidency.

Madame President,

The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) plays a key role in the Convention and its implementation. Its support is essential for affected countries. It is also essential for the different committees and office holders forming the machinery of the Convention. A fully functional ISU is necessary to meet the many challenges that the Convention is faced with, like the 2025 objective, the challenge of improvised antipersonnel mine or the organisation of the upcoming Review Conference.

We welcome that progress has been achieved towards ensuring that the ISU is financially secured. The ISU budgets in 2016 and 2017 have been fully covered. The financial security buffer is now filled. It will be important to consolidate these positive developments going forward and that main donors continue their efforts. We welcome that surplus contributions have enabled the ISU to enhance support to States Parties this year. Such enhanced support will however only be possible if States Parties remain engaged and continue contributing to both the ISU budget and financial buffer. Also, expanding the donor base would be useful, not only for financial but also ownership reasons. We encourage also the ISU to remain prudent in its financial planning.

Madame President,

We are pleased to renew this year again our support to the ISU, and to announce that we will make a contribution of CHF 80'000 to the ISU for the 2018 budget. With a view to improve financial predictability and in the perspective of the 2019 Review Conference, we have also decided to already announce that we will make a similar contribution in 2019. To respond to the call made in the decision taken into 2015 to reinforce the financial governance of the ISU, we plan to enter into a multi-year agreement with the ISU. We encourage other States Parties to do likewise.

We would like to also seize this opportunity to make a pledge of CHF 10'000 towards the Sponsorship Programme for 2018, in order to facilitate the participation of affected States Parties at the informal and formal meetings the Convention.

Madame President,

Financial difficulties have also affected the Meeting of States Parties over the past two years. The meetings had to be shortened and one of the host had to assume costs that should have been borne collectively. This matter requires our continued attention, including in the perspective of the upcoming Review Conference. We call on all states taking part in Meetings of States Parties to pay their contribution as rapidly as possible following reception of the invoice issued by the UN and to settle swiftly any outstanding dues. We welcome the fact that the 16th Meeting of States Parties mandated the Presidency to continue consultation with the view of strengthening financial predictability and sustainability, and will be looking forward to the report by the Presidency to the next MSP.

I thank you Madame President.