

**2nd Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the  
Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention  
26 February 2019  
Statement Austria**

Mr President,

Austria fully aligns itself with the EU Statement delivered. In a national capacity let me add the following short remarks:

This year is an important year for the Convention. As we prepare for the Review Conference it is timely to recall the number of successes achieved in the last decades. My delegation is looking forward to the commemorative event celebrating 20 years of entry into force of the Convention this Friday. At the same time, in 2019 - in Oslo - we will also have to take important decisions to set the course for our actions leading to 2025. We thank you Mr. President, Ambassador Brattskar, for the excellent and comprehensive work already undertaken to prepare a fruitful Review Conference in November, which will allow us to continue our successful path towards achieving the shared commitment of a world free of the scourge of anti-personnel mines.

My delegation highly values the crucial work and dedicated commitment of the ISU team. Despite limited resources the ISU provides tirelessly essential services to the Convention and its States Parties. My delegation continues to believe that all states in the position to do so should contribute to ensure the necessary funding for the ISU.

In previous years Austria continuously financially supported the ISU as well as the sponsorship programme. Despite budgetary constraints we hope that also this year we will be able to uphold our traditional financial contribution to the ISU and the sponsorship programme. However, we are not yet in the position to pledge a specific sum.

Further, we wish to express our gratitude for the unwavering support of the GICHD to the Convention. The GICHD is not only hosting the ISU, but also for bearing the cost of the intersessional meetings.

Before I conclude, allow me to briefly reiterate that financial contributions constitute an obligation under the Convention. Austria regrets that in the past due to financial shortcomings, we could not hold all meetings as initially scheduled. We call on all States to pay their contribution in a timely manner, in order to allow us to properly hold the meetings under our Convention as decided by States Parties.

I thank you.