

Statement by Mr. Pascal Rapillard, Head External Relations and Policy**Fourth International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the APMBC
Palais des Nations, Room XI, 26 February 2019**

Thank you Mr. President and congratulations for your strong commitment to the Convention.

The GICHD is committed to supporting the implementation architecture of the Convention and in particular the Implementation Support Unit, which is delivering unwavering support to the States Parties. The GICHD will continue to host and support a well-functioning and cost-efficient ISU, in accordance with the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD. Since many years, and thanks to funding from Switzerland, the GICHD provides in-kind support to the ISU – at no costs to States Parties.

In addition to administrative and logistic support, our respective mandates provide an enabling framework for fruitful cooperation at strategic level. For example, in 2018, the GICHD helped organize and facilitate the mid-term review of the Sri Lanka's national mine action strategy 2016-2020. It was particularly timely and important in light of Sri Lanka's accession to the Convention. The ISU was fully involved in this process and actively participated in the workshop through notably the presentation of the key aspects and obligations of the Convention. This type of cooperation between the ISU and the GICHD is set to continue in the coming years, for the benefit of the affected States and of the Convention.

Furthermore, we will continue to support the organization of country-focused events such as the *Afghanistan Donor and Implementing Partner Coordination Workshop* taking place in Geneva from 26 to 28 March. This event will aim at promoting donor coordination and strengthening the relationship between donors and implementing organizations.

Mr. President,

On our road to the fourth Review Conference, it will be important that mine action remains high on the international agenda, notably by raising awareness of the dangers posed by anti-personnel mines. Be assured of GICHD's support to this end. For example, we will be organizing a public photo exhibition in Geneva, starting on 4th of April. The aim of the exhibition is to mark the International Day of Mine Awareness by giving mine action a human face. The exhibition will show the impact of mines and explosive remnants of war on people's lives around the world. It will also give visibility to individuals working in mine action by showing their daily commitment to make their countries safer.

We hope to see many of you all during the opening of this exhibition in Geneva on 4 April.

The GICHD looks forward continuing working with you Mr President during this important year for the Convention.

Thank you.