



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

Statement by Nicola Brassil

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International Organisations in Geneva**

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Mr President,

I am very pleased to take the floor this afternoon at the Fourth International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

At the outset, I would like to thank you Ambassador Brattskar for chairing our meeting today, and reaffirm Ireland's appreciation for Norway's leadership in

the run-up to the Fourth Review Conference later this year. 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's entry into force and you can count on Ireland's support in your efforts to bring renewed political attention to mine action and our shared goal of achieving a mine-free world by 2025.

We fully support and believe in the vision of a world free of landmines by 2025, and will continue to work to reach this key objective.

Mr President,

The yearly Pledging Conferences have become an important occasion to mobilise financial resources for a solid implementation of the Ottawa Convention objectives and to renew and strengthen our collective commitments for cooperation and assistance with regard to mine action.

At Maputo we adopted an ambitious timeframe. It is now up to State's Parties, supported by the ISU, to implement the actions needed to realize our goal of a mine-free world where there are no new victims and where survivors' participation in their societies is assured.

Ireland has a long-standing history of commitment to humanitarian demining which we include in our ongoing development partnerships. Over the last decade we have contributed over €34 million to humanitarian mine action. In 2018, we contributed €3.2 million Euro for mine action in Afghanistan,

Colombia, Somalia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam. This year we plan to allocate another €3.2 million to our humanitarian demining partners.

Ireland remains fully committed to the equal participation of men and women in the work of the Convention and, to this end, we recently provided €5,000 to a Mine Action Canada project designed to support the participation of young women in the work of the Convention.

In addition to our direct mine-action work, Ireland has been a long term supporter of the ISU whose effective functioning is crucial to the implementation of the Convention. In 2018, we contributed €20,000 to support the work of the ISU and, given the importance of the ISU's work, we plan to allocate a similar amount in 2019.

The ICBL has labelled the Mine Ban Convention 'a success in progress' and our challenge is to keep that progress going by continuing steadfast efforts to ensure universal adherence to the Convention.

Mr President,

Ireland welcomes this pledging conference and wishes it every success in reaching the funding goals required for the effective implementation of our Convention at this time.

Thank you.