



Statement by Switzerland

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

Geneva, 26 February 2019

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the convention's upcoming review conference, and for the organization of this fourth International Pledging Conference. The assumption by Norway of the presidency is testimony to its long-standing commitment to the convention and its unrelenting efforts to address the challenges posed by landmines. Let me assure you of Switzerland's full support for our work during your presidency.

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. Having coordinated the Committee on article 5 implementation, we cannot but testify to both the importance of the ISU and of its professionalism.

We welcome that that ISU budget has been fully covered over the past few years, that the security buffer is now filled and that surplus contributions have enabled the ISU to enhance support to States Parties again this year. Continuing on this positive trend will be crucial if the convention is to meet the challenges it faces and in the perspective of the upcoming Review Conference. It will be important that main donors continue their efforts. 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.

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 2019 budget. This contribution is part of a multi-year agreement with the ISU concluded last year. We would like to also seize this opportunity to make a pledge of CHF 10'000 towards **the Sponsorship Programme** for 2019, in order to facilitate the participation of affected States Parties at the informal and formal meetings the Convention.

Mister President,

Financial difficulties have also affected the Meeting of States Parties over the past few years and meetings of States Parties had to be shortened. This matter requires our continued attention, notably to ensure that the Review Conference will not be affected by any shortfall. We call on all 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 18th Meeting of States Parties mandated the Presidency to consult with the view of strengthening financial predictability and sustainability, and will be looking forward to the report by the

Presidency on this matter. We would also be grateful to the UN for regular reports on the status of contributions.