

APLC Pledging Conference 2019, Geneva, 26 February 2019
Statement of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(Please check against delivery)

1. The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and wishes to make some remarks in a national capacity. We welcome Norway's initiative as President to hold the Fourth Annual Pledging Conference, particularly in the year of the Convention's Fourth Review Conference and as we mark the 20th anniversary of the Convention's entry into force.
2. We thank all those who have made opening remarks today. It has been valuable to hear of the efforts underway to implement the Convention. In particular, we thank Mr. Halvorsen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, for his keynote address. The UK believes that the Fourth Review Conference, to be held in Oslo in November, is a key opportunity to set out actions that will re-focus us all on implementation of core objectives of the Convention over the next five years.
3. The UK remains a strong supporter of the Convention and its goals, as demonstrated by the UK's 130 million USD Global Mine Action Programme, and in our commitment to meeting our Article 5 obligations. At this Pledging Conference, the UK joins others in renewing our commitment to the Convention and its full implementation, and to assisting the Implementation Support Unit. The UK is pleased to make a voluntary donation of 26,000 USD to the 2019 budget to support the ISU's work.
4. We hope that others will follow the UK's example. Our contributions will collectively provide the funds for the ISU to operate effectively and to deliver the essential work to prepare for our Review Conference. Predictable and sustainable funding for the ISU will aid our combined efforts to further the implementation of our shared goals.
5. In closing, I recall the UK's strong support to our Convention. We stand ready to support Norway's leadership over the coming year as we work towards the Review Conference and beyond.