



## **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)**

### **Fifth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

#### **Remarks**

**Geneva, 25 February 2020**

*Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva office, UNMAS*

Mr. President,

Let me start by congratulating you again on your presidency and on the organization of the Fifth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. It marks the beginning of important meetings under the Convention this year, in which we will hopefully see much progress in States Parties' implementation of the Oslo Action Plan and their obligations under the Convention.

Two weeks ago, most of us attended the Twenty-third International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN), also held here in the Palais des Nations, during which Sudan chaired an important plenary session. This annual meeting of mine action stakeholders registered a record number of more than 700 delegates, including representatives from States Parties to the Convention, the United Nations, civil society, as well as the private sector.

At the NDM-UN, we saw inspiring exchanges on solutions, commitments and action on mine action both in plenaries and in numerous side events but a recurring challenge remains: Insufficient funding for mine action activities, which also affects States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in meeting their Article 5 deadlines and in fulfilling their obligations under the treaty more generally. In this regard, we commend the discussions of the Mine Action Support Group in the same week, chaired as of this year by Germany, on how to increase support for mine action where it is most needed.

It is important that the Implementation Support Unit and the APMBC's sponsorship program continue to play a critical role in supporting States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention and in attending the relevant meetings here in Geneva. Adequate funding for the ISU and the sponsorship program is all the more important as the States Parties to the Convention embark upon implementing the Oslo Action Plan adopted last year.

Recalling that the Oslo Action Plan recognizes the special partnership of the Convention with the United Nations, and echoing the call to support mine affected States in last year's General Assembly Resolution on Assistance in Mine Action,<sup>1</sup> we iterate our willingness to further assist States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention and will continue to support the work of the Presidency and the Implementation Support Unit.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution 74/80, 13 December 2019, UN Doc. A/RES/74/80.