

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Sixth Pledging Conference
23.2.2021**

**Statement of Austria
Dr. Wolfgang Banyai, Minister Plenipotentiary**

Mr. President,

As this is the first formal meeting under your presidency, allow me first to congratulate you on the assumption of your important function and assure you of Austria's full support.

Austria fully aligns herself with the EU statement to be held later on.

Austria wishes to seize this opportunity to reaffirm her full commitment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Since its early days, Austria has been a staunch supporter and we will continue to support its full implementation, as the Convention's impressive accomplishments make a difference on the ground every day. The Meeting of State Parties in November 2020 outlined the important progress and created a momentum we should try to keep to reach our ultimate goal of a world without anti-personnel mines.

Keeping in mind the victims of these horrendous weapons, we can be proud that today, 164 States have legally committed to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. By now the mine community includes a plethora of national and international organizations, encompassing the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross, civil society and business.

Upholding the norm against anti-personnel land mines is vital. Austria firmly condemns any use of anti-personnel mines anywhere and by any actor. We also want to take this opportunity to yet again encourage all States Parties to contribute to mine action, including to the work of the Implementation Support Unit, which is critical to the functioning of the Convention in full and on time.

Mr. President,

Austria highly values the important work of the ISU and we thank Juan Carlos Ruan and his team for their dedicated work. A well-functioning secretariat is an important component of advancing implementation. Therefore Austria can announce a pledge for a contribution of EUR 10.000,- to the ISU budget in 2021 as well as EUR 5.000,- to the sponsorship programme 2021.

Thank you.