

Sixth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Geneva 23 February 2021

President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Gabriëlse, on your designation as President-designate of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and for chairing our importing meeting today.

Ireland fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union. Please allow me to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

President,

Let me begin by reaffirming Ireland's continued commitment to the full universalisation and implementation of the Convention and to our shared goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines by 2025.

I would also like to echo other speakers who have highlighted the importance of these annual pledging conferences. In my delegation's view, they are essential in mobilising the financial resources necessary for the full and effective implementation of the APLC. They also provide an opportunity to renew and strengthen our collective commitment for cooperation and assistance, and identify the resources necessary to achieve those goals.

President,

Ireland has a long-standing commitment to humanitarian demining as reflected in our ongoing development partnerships. Since 2006, we have contributed over €46 million to humanitarian mine action.

In 2020, Ireland 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.

In many contexts, mine action has a critical role to play in enabling progress across the Sustainable Development Goals. This year, Ireland was pleased to provide €80,000 to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to deliver an evidence-based comprehensive analysis of the impact of mine action on sustainable development in the medium and long term. Such research is essential in order to understand the broader impact of mine action.

President,

In order for any convention to function properly, all financial contributions must be paid in full and on time. We call upon all States to pay their invoices for costs arising out of meetings of this convention and for any state in arrears to pay them in full as soon as possible.

Additionally, a well-resourced ISU is a key component of the framework supporting implementation and the operation of the convention. Ireland has consistently been one of the major financial contributors to the ISU, providing €20,000 in 2020. Ireland will continue to support its important work going forward.

President,

Ireland is firmly committed to the comprehensive pathway towards a mine-free world set out by the Oslo Action plan. We particularly welcome the integration of gender considerations in the plan and urge States to further integrate gender perspectives into their mine action work.

In closing, I wish to reiterate our support to you as President-designate of the MSP and again welcome the opportunity this pledging conference has provided us with to reach the funding goals required for the effective implementation of our Convention.

Thank you.