

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Pledging Conference New Zealand Statement

Thank you Madame Chair

It gives New Zealand great pleasure to participate in this first Pledging Conference of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention and could I say what an excellent innovation this Conference is. It is a tangible demonstration of how fortunate we are to have Chile, such an active member of the Convention, as President of the 15th Meeting of States Parties. Your leadership is welcome and indeed essential as we move towards 2025 and our objective of a mine-free world. We are grateful to the Ministers and high-level attendees who have come here to signal their strong support for the Ottawa Convention and their commitment to the attainment of a mine-free world. We are delighted as well to welcome Sri Lanka into our Ottawa community.

As foreshadowed by New Zealand at the 14th Meeting of States Parties, I am pleased to confirm a contribution of NZ\$5000 to the work of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit in 2016. This donation is commensurate with what we understand New Zealand's assessed contribution would be, were the ISU to be funded compulsorily.

I am pleased also to be able to announce New Zealand's commitment to making further contributions of NZ\$5000 in 2017 and in 2018. In accordance with the four-year Workplan adopted at the 14MSP, we intend this multi-year pledge to provide the ISU with greater certainty and stability. At the same time, New Zealand hopes that a dialogue exploring alternative models of financing the ISU, as called for in the final report of the 14MSP, will help produce a more sustainable solution for the long term. I note, in this regard, the useful precedent now set for us by the funding model implemented with regard to the Oslo Convention.

Finally, Madame Chair, please allow me to take this opportunity to wish Chile the very best for its Presidency of the Convention.

Thank you.