

7 February 2017

Excellencies, dear friends,

In 2017, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its signature. The Convention has become a global success story and is the result of continued and unprecedented cooperation between States Parties – which now number 162, international organisations and civil society to rid the world from anti-personnel mines and address the plight of survivors.

2016 has been a year of budgetary shortcomings for the implementation of the Convention. The necessary financial means for mine action decreased, the very holding of the Meeting of States Parties was in jeopardy due to arrears in the payment of the assessed contributions for the Meetings, the Sponsorship Programme had to be restrictive due to funding by only a few states and the ISU could not even hire a victim assistance specialist in view of its financial situation.

So an important part of our effort in 2017 is to ensure that we have in place a healthy mechanism to support the implementation of our Convention. This includes ensuring that we as States Parties direct sufficient resources towards the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), that the participation of those affected by mines in the Meetings is enabled by the Sponsorship Programme, that our contributions to annual Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences are being paid in full and on time and funding of mine action is commensurate with the needs to meet our 2025 objective.

Following the example of the previous Chilean Presidency, Austria would like to invite you to take part in the

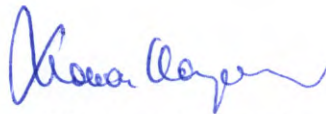
**Second International Pledging Conference  
for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention,  
Tuesday, 28 February 2017, 15:00-16:30 h,  
Palais des Nations, Room XII**

The Pledging Conference will be inaugurated by key note addresses by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, two organizations that were at the centre of the effort to make this Convention a reality. Then short presentations by the Director of the ISU, by UNODA

**President of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties**  
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on the budgetary challenges for the Meetings of States Parties and the Chair of the Sponsorship Committee will provide the factual basis for interventions from States Parties pledging their contributions and efforts to support the full implementation of the Convention.

Looking forward to your active participation, we would be grateful if you could confirm your presence as soon as possible but no later than 24 February by emailing the ISU at [isu@apminebanconvention.org](mailto:isu@apminebanconvention.org).



Thomas Hajnoczi  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Office at Geneva

To: The Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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