

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

### **Background information**

In 2017, we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption and signature of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. During the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties (16MSP) in Vienna, we highlighted the tremendous success of the Convention and the important progress we have made with 164 States having joined the Convention, 30 States Parties having completed their mine clearance obligations, over 51 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines having been destroyed, never to be used again, and progress made in our joint understanding of how to answer the Convention's promise to landmine victims.

Annually we see demonstrable progress toward our finite goal of "ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines". The 16MSP also emphasized the importance of the unique relationship between States and civil society which led to the birth of the Convention and continues to be a critical component of its implementation. As we head towards the Fourth Review Conference in 2019, we have a real opportunity to make significant advances in our implementation of this important instrument of disarmament and international humanitarian law.

We must also continue to remind ourselves, that notwithstanding the tremendous success of the treaty, our work is not complete. We still have a lot of ground to cover before we cross the finish line and we need to keep focused on our important objectives to ensure that the 33 States remaining outside our Convention join our ranks, that the 31 States Parties in the process of fulfilling their mine clearance obligations fulfil their commitments as soon as possible, that the 29 States Parties with a responsibility for a high number of survivors are able to successfully integrate victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction through which the lives of mine victims will be improved, that the 3 States Parties in the process of destroying their stockpiled anti-personnel mines successfully complete their obligations and that we continue to condemn the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor. In addition to these challenges, over the last few years we have regrettably witnessed an increase in the use of improvised anti-personnel mines leading to an increase in casualties and while we have seen sustained funding to mine action, some affected States Parties are seeing declining financial support to their programs.

To ensure that at the Fourth Review Conference we are able to boast of great strides having been made we will need to take concerted action between States Parties and civil society. We cannot rest on the success.

**President of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties**  
c/o AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

The Third Annual Pledging Conference to be held on **Tuesday, 27 February, 10:00 – 12:00, Room XII, Palais des Nations, Geneva**, will be an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to this Convention and its full implementation.

In particular the Pledging Conference will:

- Provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the activities of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in 2018 and pledge support for the ISU in line with its annual and four year work plan 2016-2019;
- Provide an opportunity for participants to pledge support for the Sponsorship Programme of the Convention to ensure that those States affected by mines can continue taking part in Convention-related meetings;
- Provide an opportunity for States to make pledges of national and international support to the implementation of the Convention, and;
- Provide an opportunity for States and organisations to share their priorities for 2018 to further the objectives of the Convention.

The Third Annual Pledging Conference will be chaired by H.E. Dr. Suraya Dalil, Ambassador, President of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.

**President of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties**  
c/o AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit