

Opening remarks, Ambassador Hans Brattskar at the APMBC 4th Annual Pledging Conference

Excellencies, dear friends,

Thank you very much for joining us today for the Fourth Annual Pledging Conference. As President, I am mandated to “lead efforts to mobilize sufficient resources to fund the operations of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)” which depends on voluntary contributions from States Parties.

We are all familiar with the work of the ISU and we all value their contribution to assisting our common efforts to implement the Convention. For this very reason, we have committed to “providing the necessary financial resources for the effective operation of the Implementation Support Unit” as highlighted in the Maputo Action Plan.

Over the years the States Parties have also taken a number of measures in support of the ISU, including by establishing this annual pledging conference and the development of four year work plans to encourage States in a position to do so to contribute to the ISU and, where possible, to do so on a multi-annual basis.

While the primary aim of the Pledging Conference is to seek pledges for the work of the ISU in 2019 and beyond, it is also an opportunity:

- To appeal for contributions to the sponsorship, programme which plays a critical role in ensuring broad participation by affected States Parties in the work of the Convention
- To remind States of the importance of ensuring payment in a timely manner and as soon as possible of their assessed contributions for UN support to the meetings of States Parties, and
- To hear from participants about their efforts and commitments to the implementation of the Convention.

With this, let me give the floor to Mr. Audun Halvorsen, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, to open the pledging conference.