

Statement by Sweden at the 5th APLC Pledging Conference 2020

Mr. President,

First and foremost, allow me to congratulate you on the important role as President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and assure you of my delegation's full support.

We wish to thank Sudan for hosting this conference. It is the fifth time such a conference is being convened and we believe it is useful in increasing transparency and awareness of the need for sustainable financing of humanitarian mine action.

Mr. President,

Sweden fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union. Please allow me to make the following remarks regarding our national support to the ISU and to mine action in general.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by conveying our sincere appreciation for the hard and the professional work of the ISU, which we all present here today can testify to.

Sweden has over the past few years been one of the major contributors to the ISU, a key component of the framework supporting implementation and the operation of the convention. Our support has always been provided as core funding. I am pleased to confirm our intention to continue our voluntary contributions to the ISU. This year we pledge 250 000 Swedish kronor – around 30 000 Swiss francs – to be spend in 2020 for the running activities of the ISU.

Mr. President,

Sweden has contributed with more than 100 million Euro to mine action worldwide over the last decade. Sweden's current mine action program decided in 2018 runs over 4 years and amounts to 280 million SEK, approximately 28 million Euro. For 2020, Sida has decided on a support to be

implemented by Danish Demining Group (DDG) and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in 12 affected countries, with a total budget of more than 70 million SEK which equals around 6,6 million Euro. The largest support will go to mine action in Afghanistan and Iraq, followed by Libya and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. President,

Sweden is firmly committed to the principles of the convention, the Oslo Action Plan and the aspirational goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines. We continue to implement our own obligations as well as provide substantial practical support to other states parties to do the same.

I thank you.