



## **Statement by Switzerland**

# ***Fourth International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti- Personnel Mine Ban Convention***

**Geneva, 25 February 2020**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as President of our Convention, and for the organization of this fifth International Pledging Conference. The assumption of the Convention's presidency by Sudan is testimony to its country long-standing commitment to address the challenge posed by this weapon. Let me assure you of Switzerland's full support for our work during your presidency.

At the Oslo Review Conference, we have taken a number of commitments to move resolutely towards a mine free world. The ISU will play a key role in supporting States Parties in implementing these commitments. The ISU support has proved essential over time for affected countries. It is also essential for the different committees and office holders forming the machinery of the convention. Having assumed a number of functions under the convention, we cannot but testify to both the importance of the ISU and of its professionalism.

We welcome the decision taken in Oslo to merge the ISU core support and enhanced support activities. A consequence of this decision is an increase of the ISU budget. Consequently, it will be important that the level of contributions going forward matches that of the past few years. We also encourage also the ISU to remain prudent in its financial planning.

In this context, we are pleased to announce that **we intend to continue our financial support to the ISU. Our contribution will take the form of a multi-year commitment, in the form of an annual contribution of CHF 70'000** towards the ISU budget this and next year. We are pleased to be in a position to make a multi-year commitment, as this strengthens the ISU and allows for better financial planning.

We would also like to seize this opportunity to make a pledge of CHF 10'000 towards **the Sponsorship Programme** for 2020, in order to facilitate the participation of affected States Parties at the informal and formal meetings of the Convention.

Finally, following the decisions taken at the Oslo Review Conference, we are pleased to announce that we will continue financing the intersessional meetings via our yearly core contribution to the GICHD, and finance a third day of informal meeting if such an option materialises.

Mister President,

The Oslo Review Conference also took a number of decisions regarding assessed contributions towards the financing of Meetings of States Parties. Going forward, it will be important to implement these measures faithfully to avoid that future MSPs are affected by financial difficulties.

In this context, we call once again upon those States that have arrears to settle them as swiftly as possible.