

Statement by Sweden at the 8th Annual Pledging Conference (2023)

Mr President, Dear ambassador Goebel,

Allow me first to congratulate you on the role as President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and assure you of my delegation's full support for your important task this year.

We would like to thank you and the ISU for organizing this conference. It's the eighth time such a conference has been organized and we think these meetings are useful in increasing transparency and to increase and retain awareness of the need to sustainable financing of humanitarian mine action.

Mr President,

Sweden, through the Swedish development authority Sida, has contributed around 100 million EUR to mine action worldwide over the last decade. Sida decided in 2018 on a multiannual programme for Mine Action, to be implemented by Danish Demining Group (DDG) and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in up to 15 affected countries, with a total budget of 440 MSEK or approx. 40 million EUR over 5 years. This 5-year funding program runs to this day, and in parallel Sweden has also supported UNMAS and GICHD through separate funding.

Looking towards the coming years, Sweden is currently developing a strategy for our foreign aid to Ukraine, focusing on the areas of reform cooperation and reconstruction. Peace and security are expected to be integral components. Furthermore, Sweden has supported mine action in Ukraine since before Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022 and will, together with our international partners, remain engaged for years to come in light of the immense mine contamination.

Sweden has over the past few years been a major contributor also to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit, which is an obvious key component of the framework which supports implementation and the operation of the Convention. We hope to be able to take a decision soon on allocating a sum of approximately 250 000 Swedish Kronor – at present approximately 23 000 Swiss Francs - to be used in 2023 for the running activities of the ISU. In a similar vein, we would urge other states to consider contributing to the ISU in order to ensure the continued implementation of the Convention.

Mr President,

We would also like to take the opportunity to call upon all states parties to pay their invoices for costs arising out of meetings of the Convention, and for the states that are in arrears, to pay in full as soon as possible.

Sweden is firmly committed to the principles of the mine ban convention, implementing our own obligations as well as providing substantial practical support to other states parties to do likewise. We expect to continue this task until we have a world free of anti-personnel land mines.

Thank you.