



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

Déclaration de la Suisse

Genève, le 24 mars 2023

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Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of our Convention and to express our gratitude for the way in which you are carrying out your duties. Germany's assumption of the Convention's presidency is a testimony to your country's long-standing commitment to mine action. Let me assure you of Switzerland's full support for the work of our Convention during your Presidency.

The Implementation Support Unit plays a key role in the functioning of the mine ban convention, in particular in assisting States Parties to implement its provisions and the commitments made at the Oslo Review Conference. The support of the ISU is essential for the affected countries. It is also key for the different Committees and office holders, forming the Convention's implementation support mechanism of the. We would like to thank the Director of the ISU and its other members for their engagement in fulfilling their duties.

It is important that the level of contributions to the ISU remains on the same level as in recent years, so that its budget is fully covered and to ensure the continuity of its work and financial stability. The broadest possible base of donors would be welcome, and would ensure that States Parties take greater ownership of its activities.

Mr. Chairman,

We are pleased to report that we will continue to support the ISU financially. Switzerland renewed its multi-year agreement with the ISU some time ago, providing for an annual contribution of CHF 60,000 for the period 2022-2024. Multi-year

commitments strengthen the Unit and allow it to plan as smoothly as possible the resources needed to achieve the objectives set out in its 2020-2024 work plan. We therefore encourage other States Parties in a position to do so to also make such commitments.

We would also like to take this opportunity to also make a pledge of 10,000 Swiss francs to the 2023 Sponsorship Programme, to facilitate in particular the participation of mine-affected States Parties and States close to accession in the Convention's informal and formal meetings. Finally, we are pleased to confirm that we will continue to fund intersessional meetings through our annual contribution to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Mr. President,

I would also like to seize this occasion to assure you of Switzerland's continued commitment to global mine action. With its new action plan 2023-2026, which will soon be concluded, Switzerland is committed to achieving the goal of a world in which people can live free of the risks of mines and other explosive devices, thus contributing to sustainable economic and social development. Switzerland will continue to support mine-affected states by funding projects and deploying experts, as it is currently doing in nearly 20 countries.