



**Statement by
H.E. Sabrina Dallafior Matter**

**Ambassadeur
Représentante permanente de la Suisse auprès de la
Conférence du désarmement**

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

Geneva, 28 February 2016

Check against delivery

Embargo : 28.02.2017, 15:00

Mr. President

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, let me congratulate Austria and namely Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi for having been appointed as President of the 16th Meeting of States Parties and for the organization of this Second International Pledging Conference for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention. Let me assure you of Switzerland's full support for our work during your presidency, marking a particular year as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Convention.

Mr. President

The decisions of the 14MSP on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU have yielded positive results for their first year of implementation. We thank the ISU for the information on its financial status at the end of 2016.

We welcome the fact that the planned 2016 budget of the ISU was fully covered. We also welcome the fact that significant contributions were made to the Financial Security Buffer. The buffer is now roughly equivalent to the ISU yearly budget, a key provision set forth at the 14 MSP that we have been able to achieve ahead of schedule.

If these developments are welcome, our efforts can obviously not stop here. With regard to the current calendar

year, Switzerland is pleased to renew its support to the ISU and pledges again **80'000.- Swiss Francs as a voluntary contribution** to the ISU.

In addition, we seize this opportunity to also pledge a Swiss contribution of around **15'000.- Swiss Francs to the APMBC Sponsorship Programme** for 2017, in order to facilitate the participation of affected States Parties to meetings under the Convention.

Mr President,

If we welcome the financial developments over the past year, we must nevertheless be aware that the result of 2016 is not automatically guaranteed for the years to come. For instance, the positive result of 2016 is in part due to the fact that the ISU underspent. With this in mind, we should further our efforts and continue to proceed with caution. As decided at the 14 MSP, the yearly budget for core support has to be fully met and the buffer fully filled before any expenditures related to enhanced support can be considered in order to perform them without prejudice to the implementation of the core tasks of the ISU. Also, expenditures related to enhanced support can only be envisaged if earmarked resources have been identified in advance of the adoption of the budget.

Mr. President,

As you and UNODA have reminded us again this afternoon, the recent past of this Convention was also marked by financial challenges related to the organisation of the yearly Meeting of States Parties; delays in the payment of contributions and outstanding dues jeopardized the most recent Meeting of States Parties for an uncomfortably long period. The host, Chile, had to assume costs that should have been borne collectively. We therefore seize this opportunity to emphasize the importance of financial security for our work under this Convention also beyond the ISU. We call again on all States participating to settle the invoice for the costs related to the next MSP as soon as it has been received, as requested by the outcome document of the Meeting of States Parties held in Santiago late last year.

Only a sustainable financing of our joint efforts will bring us closer to our goal, a mine-free world by 2025.

Thank you.