

**Fifth Annual Pledging Conference
25 February 2020**

**Opening remarks by H.E. Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed, Deputy
Permanent Representative of Sudan, President of the Eighteenth Meeting of
the States Parties**

Excellencies, dear friends,

Thank you very much for joining us today for the Fifth Annual Pledging Conference. It was a real honour for Sudan to be elected as President of the Convention following the Oslo Review Conference where we adopted the Oslo Action Plan and Declarations, plotting our road for the next 5 years of implementation of the Convention. This includes supporting the mechanisms we as States Parties have established.

As President, I am mandated to “lead efforts to mobilize sufficient resources to fund the operations of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)” which depends on voluntary contributions from States Parties.

Over the years the States Parties have also taken a number of measures in support of the ISU, including by establishing this annual pledging conference and the development of the five year work plans to encourage States in a position to do so to contribute to the ISU and, where possible, to do so on a multi-annual basis.

We are all familiar with the work of the ISU and we all value their contribution to assisting our common efforts to implement the Convention. For this very reason, we committed in Oslo to “providing voluntary resources for the effective functioning of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), making multi-year commitments where feasible, in accordance with the ISU’s 5-year work plan” as highlighted in the Action 10 of the Oslo Action Plan.

While the primary aim of the Pledging Conference is to seek pledges for the work of the ISU in 2020 and beyond, we also take this important opportunity:

- To appeal for contributions to the sponsorship programme which plays a critical role in ensuring broad participation by affected States Parties in the work of the Convention
- To remind States of the importance of ensuring payment in a timely manner and as soon as possible of their assessed contributions for UN support to the meetings of States Parties, and
- To hear from participants about their efforts and commitments to the implementation of the Convention.

With this, let me give the floor to His Excellency Omer Gamareldin Ismail, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sudan, to open the pledging conference.