

Statement by Ambassador Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director

7th International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the APMBC | 1 March 2022

Ms. President,

Thank you for welcoming us to this Seventh Pledging Conference for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Halfway through the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan, significant and sustained efforts are still required to put an end to the devastating impact of anti-personnel mines in many countries around the world. The Convention's machinery, and in particular its Implementation Support Unit, plays a key role in this regard. It is up to all of us to ensure this machinery is sustained, in line with Action #10 of the OAP.

The GICHD is committed to this and has been so for many years. The Centre cooperates with and hosts the ISU in accordance with the agreement between the States Parties and the Centre. Thanks to the support from Switzerland, the GICHD provides in-kind office space, logistical and administrative support to the Unit. This supports the work of the Convention. The GICHD is a privileged witness of the critical role of the ISU for the implementation of the Convention. I wish to join in with others in commending Juan Carlos and his team for the remarkable work they do.

Fruitful cooperation between the GICHD and the ISU also takes place at the substantive level. For instance, in 2021, the GICHD provided comments to art. 5 extension requests presented by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritania, Somalia and Turkey. The same type of support is planned for the extension requests expected in 2022. In addition, the Centre organized and/or participated in several side events on topics of primary importance to the Convention, such as innovation in mine action and the contribution of mine action to broader humanitarian, development and sustaining peace efforts. Finally, and as for several years, the Centre has participated in the APMBBC Coordinating Committee, actively contributing to its work in support of the Convention.

Ms. President,

Let me conclude by congratulating you on your election as President of the 20th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention. It is important for the Convention that affected countries with direct experience of the challenges posed by mines lead discussions on ways to address such challenges. The GICHD welcomes the longstanding and productive cooperation with Colombia at operational and governance levels and we look forward to supporting you in your efforts within the APMBBC.

Thank you.