

Check against delivery

**Third Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the
Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention
27 February 2018
Statement Austria**

Madame President,

Austria fully aligns itself with the EU Statement delivered. In a national capacity let me add the following short remarks:

I am taking the floor to commend the highly valuable work of the committed ISU team. The ISU is the institutional backbone of our convention. While the ISU provides invaluable services to the Convention and its States Parties, we are all called upon to contribute to the funding necessary for the provision of these services. In previous years Austria continuously supported the ISU through EU as well as national funding. Despite budgetary constraints we hope that also this year we will be able to continue our financial support to the ISU. However, as the 2018 general budget of Austria is still under consideration, we are not yet in the position to pledge a specific sum.

Due to the severity of the general financial situation of the convention and the issues at stake allow me to briefly touch upon this matter. Austria regrets that last year due to financial shortcomings, one day of our MSP in Vienna had to be cancelled. We call upon all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions on time, in order to allow us to properly hold the meetings under our Convention. We hope that the budget adopted under the Austrian Presidency will contribute effectively towards that end. We are looking forward to soon receive a monthly update on the financial status of the convention, in order to give states parties a clearer picture of the current financial situation of the convention.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to the GICHD for not only hosting the ISU, but also for bearing the cost of the intersessional meetings.

I thank you.