

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by Ambassador Tobias Privitelli
GICHD Director

Eleventh Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the
APMBC | 9 March 2026

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Being a privileged witness of the critical role of the ISU in APMBC implementation, the GICHD extends its gratitude to Juan Carlos and his team for their remarkable work and constant dedication.

Supporting the ISU – the only institution formally mandated to assist implementation of the Convention – is essential if we want commitments to translate into concrete results. Stability and predictability of funding are key in this regard.

We therefore encourage States Parties to continue supporting the ISU and to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme. Your contribute will ensure that participation remains inclusive. Only with broad international support, the most affected countries can engage meaningfully under the Convention.

Today, the global security environment is deteriorating. Pressure on international humanitarian law is increasing, including on the APMBC. In this challenging context, reaffirming our commitment to the Convention is fundamental – but commitments must translate into action.

At the last Review Conference of this Convention, in Siem Reap, the international community gave a strong signal of its continued commitment towards this historic treaty, which has saved countless lives.

Upholding the AP Mine Ban Treaty means remembering why it was created. It means recalling what it has achieved and taking a clear-eyed look at the challenges that remain. It also means matching commitments with the necessary financial, technical,

and political support required to protect civilians from the devastating and long-lasting impacts of anti-personnel mines.

Madam President,

In agreement with the States Parties, and thanks to the generous support of Switzerland, the GICHD continues to host the ISU under its roof. We provide office space and logistical and administrative services, including the administration of the Sponsorship Programme. Through this support, we contribute to the effective functioning of the Convention and to ensuring that the voices of those most affected are heard.

Our cooperation with the ISU – and with the Convention more broadly – goes beyond logistics. Allow me to mention a few examples.

- In September 2025, through our Regional Cooperation Programme for Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, the GICHD organized a workshop on international obligations in mine action. Discussions addressed the APMBC, the CCM and the CCW, as well as broader international humanitarian and human rights law. The programme also included a session on the Convention led by the APMBC ISU.
- The GICHD is also leading the development of an e-learning course on “International Obligations on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and Other Explosive Ordnance.” This initiative is developed in close collaboration with the ISU, among others, and will be launched later this year. It aims to strengthen knowledge of the legal framework applicable to explosive ordnance, targeting national mine action authorities, centres, and the diplomatic community.
- In February, we were pleased to attend a two-day National Stakeholder Dialogue in Sarajevo, co-hosted by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre and the APMBC ISU and related to BiH’s extension request.

More generally, GICHD supports affected countries in implementing their obligations, including by ensuring that they have comprehensive information systems, realistic strategies and up-to-date standards. The Centre also contributes to the ongoing work of the Coordinating Committee, for example through the provision of expert input on article 5 extension requests.

Madam President,

The GICHD remains fully committed to working closely with you, Madam President, the ISU, States Parties, and with all partners to advance the implementation of this Treaty.

Thank you.