12 May 2021

To: The Permanent Missions to the United Nations of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

The Permanent Missions to the United Nations of States not party to the Convention

Interested non-governmental and international organisations

Excellencies, dear friends,

In my capacity of President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) and Chair of the Coordinating Committee of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the Convention’s 2021 Intersessional Meetings which will take place on 22 - 24 June 2021. This year’s Intersessional Meetings will be held in a virtual format.

Our aim is to enable each of you to participate fully in the Intersessional Meetings and ensure that wherever you are you will be able to join us. To this end, we have selected a platform which will ensure seamless interpretation and ease of access.

In order to facilitate your participation, I would ask that you kindly register for the meetings by 11 June 2021 on the Convention’s website at:

https://www.apminebanconvention.org/intersessional-meetings/june-2021/registration/

Allow me to share with you the main elements of the programme for the Intersessional Meetings:

▪ The programme includes a series of thematic discussions on selected elements of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) with the aim of raising awareness and contributing to our collective thinking on these matters in the lead up to the 19MSP;

▪ The Committee on Article 5 Implementation will present the status of the extension request process in 2021 and invite relevant States Parties to offer an informal presentation of their extension requests; and
Finally, as President, I will brief the Convention community on preparations for the 19MSP, including by presenting a draft programme and agenda, and an update on finances and status of the sponsorship programme.

The 2021 Intersessional Meetings take place during the second year of implementation of the OAP. As indicated in the OAP, members of the Coordinating Committee and the President are responsible for measuring progress within their mandate, with the support of the Implementation Support Unit. The OAP further indicates that a baseline value for all indicators will be established based on the data reported in the first year of implementation with progress in subsequent years compared to this baseline.

In order to inform progress in implementation relative to the baseline presented at the 18MSP in 2020:

- The President and the Committees will present Preliminary Observations in accordance with their mandates and based on information submitted by States Parties in their Article 7 reports. These Preliminary Observations will be placed on the Convention’s website ahead of the meetings; and

- We encourage States to take the floor and offer brief interventions (3-5 minutes) during the thematic sessions of the Intersessional Meetings to update on their implementation efforts and to provide detailed information in writing, in complement to the information provided in Article 7 Reports, on the status, progress and challenges in implementation of the OAP which will allow for an accurate assessment of implementation. Written updates will be made available on the Convention website. Guidance to prepare your interventions and your written submissions will be sent to you shortly.

Should you have any questions about the programme, please contact the Implementation Support Unit (isu@apminebanconvention.org).

We look forward to continuing our engagement with you on the road to the 2021 Intersessional Meetings.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Robbert Gabriëlse,
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament,
Ambassador-at-large for Disarmament Affairs
President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties