



12 November 2021

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

Interested non-governmental and international organisations

Your Excellencies, dear friends,

Due to the fast increasing and unprecedented numbers of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations in the Netherlands, the Netherlands Government will announce tonight much stricter measures, possibly a (partial) lockdown. It is with much regret that I inform you that the decision has been made to hold the 19MSP in a fully virtual mode.

Many colleagues have been working tirelessly to welcome you to the Netherlands. I assure you that we did not make this decision lightly since we know many colleagues have already made the necessary bookings and arrangements to travel to The Hague. But under these circumstances, we believe it is important that we put your health and safety first.

While the programme will now be fully virtual, the substance of the meeting will remain unchanged. We will be communicating an updated programme shortly with possible time adjustments. I am extremely thankful to all my colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ISU, the UN, the interpreters, the World Forum, the Committee members and all of you in preparing for this event. We will work very hard this weekend to ensure we have a smooth fully virtual meeting. I hope I can count on the understanding and cooperation of all of you to make the 19MSP a big success and I look forward seeing you all online on Monday.

Further information on your participation and the modalities of the 19MSP will be provided to you by the ISU.

Yours sincerely,

Robbert Gabriëlse,

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament
President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties