



20MSP

Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties
21-25 November 2022, Geneva

11 February 2022

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

Your Excellency,

I have the pleasure of writing you in my capacity as President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and on behalf of Australia as Coordinator of the Convention's Sponsorship Programme.

The Seventh Annual Pledging Conference for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention will be held on 1 March 2022 in Geneva. Ahead of this, we are reaching out to all States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to strongly encourage pledges of new, renewed or increased support for the Sponsorship Programme.

The objective of the Sponsorship Programme is to ensure significant participation by delegations of States Parties which may face resource constraints to participate in the Convention's Intersessional Meetings on 20-22 June 2022 and in the 20MSP to take place on 21-25 November 2022 in Geneva, in line with the guidelines of the Sponsorship Programme. As such, the Programme facilitates dialogue between capital and field-based delegates, selected on the basis of their expertise, as well as with the Convention's President and Committees. Furthermore, the Sponsorship Programme allows States not party that have demonstrated interest in taking steps towards accession to the Convention to engage with the work of the Convention. The Programme, in turn, enhances our collective implementation efforts.

Given that the average delegate cost to attend Convention related meetings is reasonably low - between CHF 3,500-4,000 - even relatively small contributions to the Programme by States Parties will have a significant, direct impact. While the ongoing global pandemic has impacted our ability to implement the Sponsorship Programme, with the 2021 Intersessional Meetings and Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties held virtually, we are hopeful that we will return to in-person meetings in 2022.

Allowing mine-affected States Parties a strong voice in the future direction of the Convention's work is critical. We urge your country to consider new, renewed or increased funding to the Sponsorship Programme as part of your voluntary contributions to the work of the Convention in 2022, including as part of the commitments your country may want to make at the forthcoming Seventh Annual Pledging Conference.

Yours sincerely,



ALICIA ARANGO OLMOS

Ambassador of Colombia to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva

President of the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties