



Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties
20 to 24 November 2023, Geneva

7 March 2023

Your Excellency

Dear Colleague

I have the pleasure of writing you in my capacity as President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP) 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 Eight Annual Pledging Conference for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention will be held on 24 March 2023 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. This support is more important than ever in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference to take place in 2024.

As you may recall, 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 19-21 June 2023 and in the 21MSP to take place on 20-24 November 2023 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.

To provide a clearer picture of the Sponsorship Programme, the following is an outline of the categories of representatives the Sponsorship Programme could support in 2023:

- Delegates of States Parties that will submit requests for extension under Article 5 for consideration by the 21MSP;
- Delegates of States Parties that are required to submit updated work plans and additional information on the basis of decisions made on previously granted requests for extension under Article 5;
- Delegates of States Parties that are nearing completion of their Article 5 obligations;
- Delegates of other States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5 and would not be in a position to participate in the meeting without sponsorship support;
- Delegates of States Parties that have indicated having a responsibility for a significant number of landmine survivors and would not be in a position to participate in the meeting without sponsorship support; and
- Delegates of States not party making demonstrable progress toward ratification of or accession to the Convention.

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. 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 2023, including as part of the commitments your country may want to make at the forthcoming Eight Annual Pledging Conference.

Yours sincerely



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Ambassador and Permanent Representative
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Conference on Disarmament

President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the
States Parties