26 May 2020

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 Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) 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 2020 Intersessional Meetings which will take place on **30 June – 2 July 2020**. As I indicated in my previous communication, given the current situation, this year’s Intersessional Meetings will be held in a virtual format.

To ensure a successful Intersessional Meetings, our aim is to enable each of you to participate fully 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 will be engaging with many of you in the lead up to the Intersessional Meetings, including by inviting registered participants to a meeting rehearsal approximately two weeks prior to the Intersessional Meetings.

In order to facilitate your participation, I would ask that you kindly register for the meetings by **12 June 2020** on the Convention’s website at <https://bit.ly/Intersess2020>.

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

* The programme includes a series of panel discussions which address new elements of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) with the aim of raising awareness and contribute to our collective thinking on these matters in the lead up to the 18MSP in November 2020;
* The Committee on Article 5 Implementation, mandated in part to submit to the States Parties an analysis of requests submitted to extend Article 5 deadlines, will present the status of the extension request process in 2020 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 18MSP, including an informal presentation of a draft programme and agenda, update on finances and status of the sponsorship programme.

The 2020 Intersessional Meetings take place seven months following the adoption of *the Oslo Action Plan 2019 - 2024* at the Fourth Review Conference in November 2019*.* As indicated in the Oslo Action Plan, 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 Oslo Action Plan 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.

To support implementation of the Committees mandates and to continue our cooperative approach to implementation:

* The President and the Committees will present, were relevant, Preliminary Observations in accordance with the mandate entrusted to them by the States Parties and based on the information submitted by States Parties on their implementation efforts. These Preliminary Observations will be placed on the Convention’s website ahead of the meetings; and
* As we work collectively to establish a baseline of implementation of the Oslo Action Plan, we would also encourage States 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 Oslo Action Plan which will allow for an accurate assessment of implementation, in accordance with the **attached guidance**. This information will also be placed on the 2020 Intersessional Meetings page on the Convention’s website.

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 2020 Intersessional Meetings.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed

Ambassador , Deputy Permanent Representative

Chargé d'affaires a.i.

President of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties