1 April 2019

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

Excellencies, dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to write to you in my capacity as President of the Fourth Review Conference of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* to invite you to participate in the intersessional meetings and in the First Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Review Conference which will take place on **22-24 May 2019** at the World Meteorological Organization Building in Geneva.

This is a special year for the Convention as we celebrate 20 years since entry into force and we prepare for the Convention's Fourth Review Conference which will take place in Oslo, 25-29 November 2019. Together with the Committees of the Convention, we have prepared a programme for the intersessional meetings that aims to provide States Parties and other stakeholders the opportunity to present updates or views on progress in implementation under the Convention. Guidance has been developed by the Committees to support your preparations. As you can appreciate from the programme, time is limited and I encourage all States Parties to prepare short updates on progress and remaining challenges and to submit longer and more detailed information in writing to the ISU to be placed on the Convention's website.

It would be highly appreciated if you could indicate in advance, during which items your delegation intends to intervene to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU). Should you have any questions about the programme, please contact the ISU at isu@apminebanconvention.org.

In addition, on 23 May, a number of thematic discussions intended to provide impetus towards and inform a strong Oslo Action Plan will take place. A short summary of each thematic discussion will be presented to the First Preparatory Meeting on 24 May.

Taking advantage of the presence of a number of delegations in Geneva, on the afternoon of 24 May 2019, I will host the First Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Review Conference. The First

Preparatory Meeting will provide an opportunity for States Parties and other stakeholders to engage in substantive discussions on the Oslo Action Plan and other relevant documents. We encourage all States Parties and stakeholders to come prepared to share their views and input in accordance with the concept note for the Fourth Review Conference documents.

Attached we have also included administrative information including information on the procedures for registration for the intersessional meetings and the First Preparatory Meeting.

Finally, as President I am committed to incorporating a gender perspective in all parts of our work under the Convention. I firmly believe that doing so will strengthen the relevance and sustainability of mine action and lead to a more efficient and effective implementation of the Convention. I would therefore like to use this opportunity to encourage all States Parties and other stakeholders to keep this aspect in mind when composing their delegations and in preparing their interventions.

I look forward to seeing you in May.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Hans Brattskar
Ambassador of Norway to the United Nations in Geneva
President of the Fourth Review Conference

Enc.:

1. Programme for the intersessional meetings (22 and 24 May)
2. Programme for the thematic discussions (23 May)
3. Agenda for the Fourth Review Conference First Preparatory Meeting (24 May)
4. Guidance for participants in preparing interventions at the intersessional meetings
5. Concept note on Fourth Review Conference substantive documents
6. Administrative information (e.g. registration information)
7. Side events room request form