

Update on the Sponsorship Programme

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At this intersessional meeting, the sponsorship programme sent out notices to States Parties and a small number of States not parties inviting 72 people to participate and give reports relating to their States' obligations on Victim Assistance, Mine Clearance, Stockpile Destruction and adherence to the Convention.

From these 72 invitees only 41 people were able to come. Late applications, last minute cancellations and visa problems were the main causes for the lack of attendance at the others.

Therefore, let me emphasise the importance of ensuring your commitment to attend these meetings and that visas are applied for well in advance.

For those sponsored delegates who are here, I would like to thank you for your active participation and for those who included appropriate experts on Victim Assistance in your delegations I offer a note of special thanks.

For the 7th Meeting of States Parties we will endeavour to invite a similar number of delegates to attend. We hope that you will be able to take up this offer in the future but also do your part to ensure you are able to be here to actively participate.

The sponsorship programme remains a key tool in the implementation of this convention and I offer my sincere thanks to the donors to their continued support.

I also offer my personal thanks and gratitude to Catherine Borrero and Kerry Brinkert, without whom the sponsorship programme could not function in the excellent way it has.

Thank you.