

8 February 2018

To: The Permanent Missions to the United Nations
in Geneva of States Parties and States not party
to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-
Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Interested international and non-governmental
organisations

Excellencies, dear friends,

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction is the cornerstone of the international effort to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. The overwhelming success of this Convention is a testimony to the hard work carried out by States in collaboration with civil society.

At the Maputo Review Conference in June 2014, the States Parties collectively made a call to ensure that there are no new mine victims in areas under our jurisdiction or control, to see that survivors participate in their societies on an equal basis to others, and to intensify their efforts to complete our respective time-bound obligations to the fullest extent possible by 2025. This will require close coordination and cooperation between all of us.

An important part of our effort is to ensure that we have in place a healthy mechanism to support the implementation of our Convention. This includes ensuring that we, as States Parties, continue directing resources towards the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) that we have established, and ensure that our contributions to annual Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences are being paid in full and that we direct sufficient funds to the Convention's Sponsorship Programme to ensure that those States that are affected by mines can participate in the work of the Convention.

Afghanistan would like to build on the positive results of last year's pledging conference organised for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and invite you to take part in the:

**Third Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Tuesday, 27 February, 10:00-12:00, Palais des Nations, Room XII**

The Pledging Conference will be inaugurated by **H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chair of the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan** followed by short introductory remarks before opening to pledges and statements in support of our common effort.

Your active participation is critical to the Conference's success. Background information, adjoined to this letter, provides additional details concerning the Pledging Conference.

President of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties
c/o AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

I would ask that you please communicate your participation and, if possible, indicate if you would like to take the floor during the Conference to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Implementation Support Unit at isu@apminebanconvention.org as soon as possible and if possible by the 23 February 2018.

We look forward to your participation.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Dr.Suraya Dalil
Ambassador
President of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties