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The Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Interested international and non-governmental organisations

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Geneva, 29 May 2020

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to write to you in my capacity as President of the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), to follow-up on my letter of 15th May regarding the preparatory process to the Review Conference.

As already indicated, conditions are not met to hold the First Preparatory Meeting on 8th June as originally scheduled. Further to discussions with the United Nations, an option may be to hold the meeting on 29th June, as envisaged in my previous letter. However, the situation remains fluid and several elements remain to be clarified before we are in a position to confirm this date. At this stage, I will therefore continue my consultations on this matter.

Any meeting that would be held later in June would include all necessary measures to ensure the safety of participants. The room identified by the United Nations for the meeting would have a capacity of 175 people with the current safety measures. As a consequence, each delegation would be limited to one participant in the room. In view of this restriction, the meeting would be accompanied by a number of measures to ensure maximum inclusivity. It is my intention to allow delegates and representatives unable to attend the meeting in person to follow the reunion online. Also, interested stakeholders will have the possibility to submit in writing any consideration that they may have on matters addressed at the meeting, following its conclusion.

In view of the current situation, **I propose at this stage to decide to postpone the meeting planned for 8th June. In the absence of objections by COB 4th June 2020, I will consider that States Parties agree to this postponement.** I will come back to you as soon as possible to decide on the exact date for the First Preparatory Meeting.

Finally, as already mentioned in my previous letter, I have the pleasure to invite you to an informal virtual briefing on 8th June at 14.00 to inform you about different aspects of our work ahead of the Review Conference. An invitation to the meeting will be circulated by the Secretariat. During this meeting, I will provide more information on the process towards the Review Conference, including the potential holding of the First Preparatory Meeting on 29th June and inform on the location of the 2nd Review Conference. You are welcome to send questions or considerations that you may have on the postponement of the First Preparatory meeting ahead of the briefing at ccm2rc@eda.admin.ch before 4th June. There will also be a possibility to raise questions during the briefing.

I look forward to meeting with you soon and continue our collaboration towards the Second Review Conference of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellencies, dear colleagues, the assurances of my highest consideration.

The Permanent Representative of Switzerland
to the Conference on Disarmament

Félix Baumann
Ambassador