The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs presents her compliments to the heads of the specialized agencies and related organizations and has the honour to refer to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The States Parties to the TPNW agreed that the first Meeting of States Parties will be held at the Austria Center Vienna (ACV) in Vienna from 21 to 23 June 2022 following the postponement from the original dates due to the uncertain situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Article 8, paragraph 5 of the TPNW states that “States not party to this Treaty, as well as the relevant entities of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and relevant non-governmental organizations, shall be invited to attend the meetings of States Parties […] as observers.”

Article 8, paragraph 2 of the TPNW states inter alia that “The meeting of States Parties shall adopt its rules of procedure at its first session. Pending their adoption, the rules of procedure of the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, shall apply.” (Rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, states that “Specialized agencies and related organizations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and, as appropriate, any committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.”)

Accordingly, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has the honour to invite the specialized agencies and related organizations to attend the first Meeting of States Parties as observers.

Further information on the arrangements for the Meeting of States Parties will be communicated in due course and will be made available on the website of the Meeting of States Parties (https://meetings.unoda.org/meeting/tpnw-msp-1-2022/).

The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs avails herself of this opportunity to renew to the heads of the specialized agencies and related organizations the assurances of her highest consideration.

12 April 2022