

REFERENCE: DDA/25-2004/APLC

14 May 2004

Dear Ms. Bernstein,

I have the honour to refer to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which, in accordance with its article 17, paragraph 1, entered into force on 1 March 1999. In accordance with article 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Secretary-General convened the First Meeting of the States Parties from 3 to 7 May 1999 in Maputo, Mozambique; the Second Meeting of States Parties from 11 to 15 September 2000 in Geneva, Switzerland; the Third Meeting of States Parties from 18 to 21 September 2001 in Managua, Nicaragua; the Fourth Meeting of States Parties from 16 to 20 September 2002, in Geneva, Switzerland; and the Fifth Meeting of States Parties from 15 to 19 November 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, states, *inter alia*, that "A Review Conference shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations five years after the entry into force of this Convention. All States Parties to this Convention shall be invited to each Review Conference."

Furthermore, paragraph 3 of the same article states that "States not parties to this Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations may be invited to attend each Review Conference as observers in accordance with the agreed Rules of Procedure."

The General Assembly, in paragraph 8 of its resolution 58/53 of 8 December 2003, requested the Secretary-General:

"in accordance with article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Convention's First Review Conference, at Nairobi from 29 November to 3 December 2004."

Ms. Elizabeth Bernstein
Coordinator
International Campaign to Ban Landmines
Washington, DC



Furthermore, the General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of the same resolution, requested the Secretary-General:

“on behalf of States parties and in accordance with article 12, paragraph 3, of the Convention, to invite States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the First Review Conference as observers, and urges participation at the highest possible level in a high-level segment to be held at the end of the Review Conference”.

In accordance with these provisions, the Secretary-General is currently undertaking the necessary preparations to convene the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. This meeting will be held from 29 November to 3 December 2004 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya. On behalf of the Secretary-General, I am pleased to invite your Organization to attend the Conference as an observer. I would be grateful if you could provide me with your formal response together with the names of your representatives no later than 15 November 2004.

The date for the opening of the list of speakers for the general exchange of views will be announced in due course in the *Journal* of the United Nations and the *Daily Bulletin* at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the United Nations Office in Geneva, respectively.

For further information related to this Conference, please contact:

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nobuyasu Abe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nobuyasu Abe
Under-Secretary-General
for Disarmament Affairs