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CH-1211 Genève 20, Mission suisse ONUG, BFX

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, 15 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 share some important information regarding the preparation process to this event, to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

In this challenging time, my team and I have been focused on finding ways to ensure the continuity of our work and the completion of our task as Presidency, meaning to lead the CCM community to the Review Conference in a smooth and inclusive manner.

Regarding the Review Conference itself, we are at the moment still planning to hold it in Lausanne as originally envisaged and as agreed by all States parties. We are in close contact with the venue to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety of all participants. At this stage we would like to stay optimistic and hope to be able to welcome everyone in Lausanne.

Regarding the First Preparatory Meeting, scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> June, the situation is slightly more complicated. Travel restrictions are in place in many countries. While the Palais des Nations is planned to reopen on the day that the meeting should be held, many uncertainties remain regarding the organisation of reunions. Also, a virtual meeting will not be possible on 8<sup>th</sup> June as the availability of a platform satisfying the necessary conditions of confidentiality and inclusivity (especially interpretation) has not been confirmed for this date.

In this context, holding the First Preparatory Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June does not seem to be a realistic option.

Looking pragmatically at the situation, I would like to suggest a two-step approach. On 8<sup>th</sup> June, the Presidency will hold an informative virtual briefing in English only. During this briefing, I will inform the CCM community about the latest developments in our process and notably explain where we stand with the substantial documents. An invitation to all of you will follow soon.

Secondly, I propose to postpone the First Preparatory Meeting. I kindly ask you to save the date of 29<sup>th</sup> June. Depending on the evolution of the Covid-19 situation and the availability of the above-mentioned platform, we will determine as soon as possible if and under which conditions the meeting can take place. A silence procedure will then be launched to take a formal decision.

Finally, despite the many uncertainties that we are facing, it is important that we continue working on the important milestones of our road to the Second Review Conference. This includes the Lausanne Action Plan, which will be a crucial tool for the implementation of the Convention in the next five years. I would like to invite you to provide your considerations regarding this document on the basis of the annex to this letter containing first reflections and questions thereon. I would be very grateful for all your written contributions on this document by 8<sup>th</sup> June.

I wish you all the best in the current challenging situation and look forward to continuing cooperating with you 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Baumann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Félix Baumann  
Ambassador

## **Concept note on the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP)**

Submitted by the President of the Second Review Conference

### **I. Introduction**

1. Developing a robust action plan is a central task of the Review Conference. This document will play a key role under the Convention for the period 2021-2025 as it will guide its implementation (or the fulfillment of its obligations). It will have to build on the previous action plan (Dubrovnik Action Plan) and should seek to capture new developments, progress and challenges identified in the Review Document. The action plan will contain concrete and measurable actions that States Parties could or should take to bring forward implementation and the realization of the objectives set forth in the Convention during the period of 2021-2025.
2. In order to start elaborating the action plan to be adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference, States Parties and other stakeholders are invited to provide answers to the questions outlined in this document.

### **II. Structure of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP)**

3. The structure of the LAP will have a direct impact on the practical use of this document, and must therefore be elaborated carefully. The Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) includes an introduction in the form of a narrative and seven thematic domains, each declined into actions and a set of expected results. No chapter is dedicated to implementation support.
4. In elaborating the structure of the LAP, States Parties and other stakeholders will have to take a number of elements into consideration. It is a given that the document should be concise, clear and practical to use. Also, its impact and the implementation of actions should be measurable.  
When reflecting on the structure of the LAP, States Parties and other interested stakeholders may want to provide their considerations on the following elements:
  - What should be the main objective of the LAP?
  - Is an introduction necessary/helpful as in the DAP, or would a set of best practices be more useful?
  - Should the LAP contain a set of cross-cutting actions?
  - How could actions best be measured?
    - Should we retain the approach of the DAP with a few expected results for each section or should we have one or more specific indicator for each action?
    - Should a baseline for this indicators be developed and how?

### **III. Content of the Lausanne Action Plan**

5. The content of the LAP will guide the work under the Convention during the next five years and must therefore be defined precisely. The Dubrovnik Action Plan includes the following thematic domains:
  - Universalisation
  - Stockpile destruction
  - Clearance and risk reduction education
  - Victim assistance
  - International cooperation and assistance
  - Transparency measures
  - National implementation measures
6. These seven topics are certainly at the core of the Convention and must be covered by the Lausanne Action Plan. In considering this aspect, States Parties and other stakeholders may want to provide their considerations on the following elements:
  - What should be the main thematic sections of the LAP?

- Are there missing topics in the above list that should be added or should some sections be sub-divided?
  - In the case we include cross-cutting issues in the LAP, should that be in a dedicated initial chapter or mainstreamed throughout the document?
    - Also, what issues should such cross-cutting actions cover?
7. When focusing more specifically on the above mentioned topics, States Parties may want to think more precisely about the following aspects:
- a. On universalisation
    - What considerations should guide this section, and what actions should it include?
    - Which actions from the DAP should be maintained and/or updated? What actions may be missing?
    - How can we accelerate the rate of ratification/accession and improve the geographical distribution of the Convention?
    - What measures should be considered to promote the norm established by the Convention?
    - What indicators should we use?
  - b. On stockpile destruction
    - What considerations should guide this section and what actions should it include?
    - Which actions from the DAP should be maintained and/or updated? What actions may be missing?
    - How can the CCM community support the affected States in order to make sure that they complete their destruction in line with their obligations under the Convention? What should the States Parties expect from States requesting extensions?
    - What indicators should we use?
  - c. On clearance and risk reduction education
    - What considerations should guide this section and what actions should it include?
    - Which actions from the DAP should be maintained and/or updated? What actions may be missing?
    - How can we ensure that affected States, donor States and implementing partners work together efficiently in order to ensure completion within the deadlines laid down in the Convention? What should the States Parties expect from States requesting extensions?
    - What indicators should we use?
  - d. On victim assistance
    - What considerations should guide this section and what actions should it include?
    - Which actions from the DAP should be maintained and/or updated? What actions may be missing?
    - What steps can be taken by the various CCM actors in affected and donor States to ensure victim assistance is integrated in broader humanitarian, human rights and development frameworks?
    - What indicators should we use?
  - e. On international cooperation and assistance
    - What considerations should guide this section and what actions should it include?
    - Which actions from the DAP should be maintained and/or updated? What actions may be missing?
    - How can cooperation and assistance within the Convention best support individual countries to reach completion of their obligations, while increasing the national ownership?
    - What indicators should we use?
  - f. On transparency measures
    - What considerations should guide this section and what actions should it include?
    - Which actions from the DAP should be maintained and/or updated? What actions may be missing?
    - What can be done by the CCM community to reduce the reporting workload while ensuring qualitative and timely reports?
    - What indicators should we use?

- g. On national implementation measures
- What considerations should guide this section and what actions should it include?
  - Which actions from the DAP should be maintained and/or updated? What actions may be missing?
  - What can be done to increase awareness on the available resources to support the development of national implementation measures?
  - What indicators should we use?

#### **IV. Way forward**

8. Comments and answers to the above questions can be submitted in a written form to the Presidency team ([ccm2rc@eda.admin.ch](mailto:ccm2rc@eda.admin.ch)) until 8<sup>th</sup> June.
9. A discussion on the Lausanne Action Plan, based on responses to the above questions, will take place during the First Preparatory Meeting of the Second Review Conference.