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) regarding the first part of the meeting which will start on 25 November 2020.

Following the circulation of the programme of work on 12 November 2020, I would like to provide some more details on the proceedings for the first part of the Review Conference.

We will first have to address several procedural matters. Once done, we will turn to item 6 of the agenda entitled “Organization of work”. Under this item, I intend to present the documents and decisions to be adopted by the second part of the Review Conference, as indicated in my previous communication. However, my intention is not to have an extensive discussion on each document. Should you have any comments thereon, I would be thankful if you could keep them short and concise under this agenda item. Please do not hesitate to address any consideration that you may have regarding the elements presented under this agenda item directly to my team at the following address: ccm2rc@eda.admin.ch

Second, as you certainly noticed from the programme of work, agenda item 7 entitled “Reaffirming the determination to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions” will not be addressed during this first part of the meeting. I would like to kindly ask you to reserve your general statements for this agenda item, to be taken up during the second part of the Review Conference.

Third, given the particular format of our meeting, I would like to count on your flexibility regarding some potential adaptations of the programme of work. For example, should we have exhausted our discussion under agenda item 6 tomorrow during the morning session, we might already start our discussion on universalisation. However, please rest assured that the slots dedicated to extension requests will not be moved.

Finally, as indicated in my previous communication, we will have to adopt some decisions of a technical nature during this first part of the Review Conference. In the first session (10am-12am Geneva time) on Wednesday, 25 November, we will adopt the agenda of the Conference, the provisional programme of work and the rules of procedure. During the last session (4pm-6pm Geneva time) on Friday, 27 November, we will adopt the estimated costs for the next Meeting of States Parties as well as the Programme of work and budget 2021 of the Implementation Support Unit. To adopt those documents, the quorum (the presence of the majority of participating States to the Review Conference) will need to be met. I would therefore like to urge you to make sure that you are present at these two sessions by logging in on the interprefy platform. Please note that all documents mentioned above are in annex of this letter and available on the UN website at the following address: Documents - UNODA Meetings Place.
I look forward to this first part of the Review Conference and I am confident that, thanks to your continuous support and engagement, it will be very successful.

Yours sincerely,

The Permanent Representative of Switzerland
to the Conference on Disarmament

Félix Baumann
Ambassador