

Geneva, 19 June 2002

To: The Permanent Missions in Geneva of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

CC: The Permanent Missions in Geneva of States not Parties to the Convention

Interested non-governmental and international organizations

From: The Permanent Missions of Norway and Thailand in their capacities as Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention

**Re: Dialogue on a process to prepare for the Convention's First Review Conference**

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At the May 31, 2002 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, many States Parties expressed a desire that consideration be given to clarifying a process that could be used to prepare for the Convention's First Review Conference in 2004. Many also indicated that this process should be transparent and inclusive, and that all States Parties should be provided with the opportunity to participate in discussions on this process.

It was the Co-Chairs' sense of the meeting that it would be prudent for States Parties to begin – as early as the September 2002 Fourth Meeting of the States Parties – to discuss the options that exist for a preparatory process and that the current and incoming Presidencies should ensure sufficient preparations are undertaken for such a discussion at the Fourth Meeting.

No later than the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties in the fall of 2003 it will be necessary that States Parties make decisions on matters related to the Review Conference's preparatory process. The Fourth Meeting of the States Parties therefore provides States Parties with an opportunity to discuss:

- what matters may need to be considered at the Fifth Meeting,
- what options might exist with respect to these matters, and
- what actions should be undertaken to develop these options for consideration.

To seek the views of States Parties on the discussion on these matters that they wish to see take place at the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention would be pleased to invite all States Parties, along with interested organizations and States not Parties to the Convention, to an informal dialogue, which will take place as follows:

**Thursday, June 27  
15:00  
Palais des Nations, Room VII**

For further information, please contact Mr. Knut Langeland of the Permanent Mission of Norway (tel: 022-918-0400; email: knut.langeland@mfa.no) or Mr. Apirat Sugondhabhirom of the Permanent Mission of Thailand (tel: 022-715-1010; email: suapir01@hotmail.com).