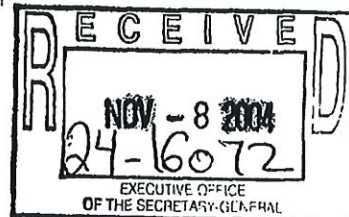
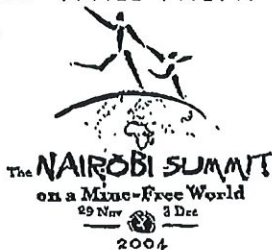


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First Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE

Geneva, 8 November 2004

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President Designate of the First Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention / Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World, which is now only a few weeks away. We have entered the final phase of the preparations and I would like to provide you with information about this landmark event. Let me also use this opportunity to thank you for the strong support that you have always expressed in the past seven years for the Convention and, during the past year, for our efforts to prepare for the Nairobi Summit.

The substantive preparations have gone very well. Over the course of the last fourteen months, we have produced a comprehensive Review about the successes and challenges of the past five years. Most importantly, however, we have worked on an ambitious and concrete Action Plan for the period 2005-2009, which should provide us with a clear roadmap for the full implementation of the Convention in the coming years. I have attempted to organize this work in a very inclusive and transparent manner and the States Parties as well as all interested organizations have contributed actively and constructively to this process. I am confident that the draft documents will find the agreement of the States Parties in Nairobi.

The substantive decisions and documents, however, are but one aspect for the success of the Nairobi Summit. Another key element is the expression of political commitment for the solution of the APL issue. The Nairobi Summit is the best opportunity - since the 1997 signing ceremony in Ottawa - to reinforce this commitment and to refocus the attention of the international community on the landmine issue. For this reason, the participation at the highest possible level, in particular by mine-affected states, is of utmost importance.

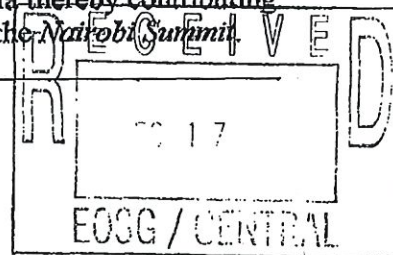
I would therefore, again, like to appeal to you, Mr. Secretary-General, to participate in the high-level segment on 3 December 2004, as you did for the signing ceremony in Ottawa on 3 December 1997.

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There are very positive indications for high-level participation, especially of African states, from where several heads of state will travel to Nairobi. However, your participation would be of particular importance to encourage and facilitate increased high-level participation from other States Parties and would underscore the political priority the international community attaches to this issue. Moreover, the full support of the United Nations, as expressed through your presence would be an important focus for the attention of the media thereby contributing greatly to raising awareness about the issue in general as well as about the Nairobi Summit.

Wolfgang Petritsch
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva
Avenue Giuseppe Motta 35-37, 1211 Geneva

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I would like to convey to you that there is a clearly expressed hope and an expectation among the States Parties that you would be able to participate in our work. As we continue to make further progress in universalising the Convention – in Nairobi we will be able to welcome some new members –, the role and the responsibility of the United Nations in the Convention will necessarily continue to increase in the coming years. We have, thus, designed a structure of the high-level segment, which would see you effectively as the last speaker before the Conference would be closed. The States Parties would then hand over to you the high-level declaration "*Towards a Mine-Free World: The 2004 Nairobi Declaration*" as the Depositary of the Convention, to underline the key role of the UN-system in the effort to bring the landmine problem to a solution. I am forwarding to you a copy of the draft declaration, which has been circulated to the States Parties.

In closing, I would, again, like to thank you for the support you have always given to this unique process.

Sincerely yours,



Wolfgang Petritsch

Wolfgang Petritsch
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva
Avenue Giuseppe Motta 35-37, 1211 Geneva