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The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations and, on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Team (UNMAT), has the honour to inform that it is facilitating a meeting on the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be held in Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters, on Wednesday 18 March 2009 from 13:15 to 14:30 hours. The meeting is organised in cooperation with the Cluster Munitions Coalition and in coordination with interested States. Its aim is to promote signatures and an early entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Upon the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Dublin in May 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General urged all States to sign and ratify the Convention without delay. Since it was opened for signature in Oslo on 3 December 2008, the Convention has been signed by 95 States and ratified by four. It may be signed at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until its entry into force six months after the deposit of the 30th instrument of ratification or accession with the United Nations Secretary-General, who is the depositary for the Convention.

The 18 March 2009 event provides States with the opportunity to learn more about the Convention, its provisions and its status of ratification, as well as on national steps that are being taken to bring the treaty into effect. The meeting will consist of a brief opening ceremony, followed by national statements. A reception hosted by Norway is also being planned for later that day. Should any Member State wish to attend and/or make a statement it is requested to inform the Policy Section of the United Nations Mine Action Service (telephone: +1 (212) 963 3597; e-mail: laurie@un.org).

Furthermore, States could make use of this opportunity to sign the Convention or deposit their instruments of ratification or accession, in which case they are requested to inform the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs before 13 March 2009 (telephone: +1 (212) 963-5047; e-mail: holbrook@un.org).

It is noted that the Convention will also be highlighted during the annual treaty event that will take place from 23-25 and 28-29 September 2009 at the United Nations Headquarters. A letter of invitation from the Secretary-General to Heads of State and Government will be issued shortly. Delegations are encouraged

to inform their Governments accordingly for the purpose of completing the requisite domestic procedures in time.

The Secretariat of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions the assurances of its highest consideration.

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5 March 2009