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Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Letter dated 10 August 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you a letter dated 10 August 2021 from the President-designate of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Alexander Kmentt (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 103 (nn).

(Signed) Jochen Hans-Joachim **Almoslechner**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 10 August 2021 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of
Nuclear Weapons**

I have the honour to write to you in my capacity as President-designate of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. On 27 April 2021, you sent a note verbale to the States parties and States not parties to the Treaty, informing them that, in accordance with a decision by States parties, you would convene the First Meeting of States Parties from 12 to 14 January 2022 at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

Further developments, however, have rendered the original dates of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons no longer feasible. Chief amongst these is the decision by States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, after two postponements necessitated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, to hold the five-yearly tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons from 4 to 28 January 2022. With the exception of two non-United Nations Member States, all States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Following extensive discussions and consultations on this matter, the States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons have agreed:

1. To hold the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at an appropriate time after 22 January 2022, notwithstanding article 8, paragraph 2, of the Treaty, owing to the unprecedented circumstances arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have made it no longer feasible to hold the Meeting by that date;
2. To confirm that the Secretary-General of the United Nations is no longer required to convene the first Meeting of States Parties within one year of the entry into force of the Treaty in accordance with article 8, paragraph 2;
3. To hold the first Meeting of States Parties from 22 to 24 March 2022 at the United Nations Office at Vienna, and to request the Secretary-General to convene the first Meeting on those dates and the Secretariat to make the appropriate arrangements to that end;
4. To authorize the President-designate to transmit the present text to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to request him to circulate the communication as an official document of the General Assembly under an appropriate agenda item.

I should therefore like to request, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the decision, that you convene the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons from 22 to 24 March 2022 at the United Nations Office at Vienna, and that you inform the States parties and States not parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons accordingly.

The States parties to and signatory States of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons are grateful for the support of the United Nations Secretariat in the preparations for the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. They also appreciate your high-level advocacy for nuclear disarmament and look forward to continuing their work towards our shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

(Signed) Alexander **Kmentt**
President-designate
