

**PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE OTTAWA CONVENTION  
13 FEBRUARY 2004, GENEVA  
REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND**

Thank you Mr President,

We are pleased to see you at the helm and appreciate the commitment you bring to this process as States Parties prepare for the Review Conference.

We also appreciate the efforts of the “Friends of the President” in producing such thorough and thoughtful discussions papers.

Given our experience last year at the Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention, where it took nearly two whole weeks for the final declaration to be agreed, it will be important that we move forward quickly to working on draft texts.

The discussion paper on the “Review” and “Action Plan” appears to suggest, under the heading “Drawing Conclusions”, that resolving some of the Convention’s ongoing implementation issues should be incidental to the work on the plan of action as it states “... through the course of reviewing the operation and status of the Convention and developing an action plan possible conclusions could emerge.” The Review Conference as the forum to “review the operation and status” of the Convention is the appropriate opportunity to resolve longstanding disagreements about the interpretation of articles 1, 2 and 3 and we would not want to see these issues in anyway sidelined.

In regard to the paper by Germany and Malaysia on the future “Nature, Timing and Sequencing” of meetings, which usefully set out possible future options, we believe that there needs to be a reduction in the number of meetings. Such a move would prevent meeting fatigue, ensure that States Parties are making the most effective use of time and resources. However, we recognise that factors needs to be weighed against the need to keep abreast of developments and needs in the field.

Thank you.