

## **Operationalizing the programme of the Review Conference**

### **Remarks by Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, President-designate of the First Review Conference**

**29 June 2004**

- The ceremonial opening of the Review Conference will have taken the day before the official start of the Review Conference. Therefore, at 10:00 a.m. on Monday 29 June we intend to proceed immediately with our work.
- The meeting would actually be opened by the Foreign Minister of Thailand, as the Convention's outgoing President. Following his closing address as President, he will preside over the election of the President of the Review Conference.
- Following the Review Conference President's opening address, the States Parties will be asked to adopt a series of recommendations on procedural matters made during the Preparatory Meetings:
  - The Review Conference agenda, rules of procedure, cost estimates, election of the Vice-Presidents, confirmation of the Secretary-General, and programme of work
- With these procedural matters out of the way, the remainder of Monday, all day Tuesday and most of Wednesday will feature discussions on the draft documents and on possible conclusions on the implementation on the Convention. The draft documents will include:
  - A draft review of the operation and status of the Convention
  - A draft document on future Meetings of the States Parties and related matters.
  - A draft 2005-2009 action plan
- On Wednesday afternoon, the States Parties will be asked to recommend the adoption of the final documents.
- Why? – Quite simply because over the next two days will feature a high level segment and thus there will be no more time to negotiate documents.
- How will this high level segment unfold? – The high level segment should be contained within three, 3-hour time-blocks.
- That is, we would have a maximum of 540 minutes for this session and we will have to use our time wisely.
- Following the high level segment – and following the lunch break on December 3 – the agenda calls for the address by our distinguished guest – the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

- This agenda item traditionally has been placed at the beginning of Meetings of the States Parties and traditionally has seen messages delivered by or on behalf of Jody Williams, the President of the ICRC and the UN Secretary-General.
- However, at the Review Conference, there is no need for this at the beginning of the Review Conference given that Jody Williams and Jakob Kellenberger presumably would speak during the high level segment.
- Kofi Annan effectively would be the last speaker at the Review Conference. The only other matter of business would be the formal adoption of the final documents, which should be a mere formality if the States Parties have recommended them on Wednesday afternoon.
- Some consideration has been given to questions that have been raised regarding the programme:
  - When would personalities like Carol Bellamy address the meeting? – There are two opportunities: First, there is the high level segment. Second – and equally important – we should not forget the value of such individuals activity participating in the substantive discussions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
  - How would the high level segment be structured? – We are open to views. However, we would foresee there being a list developed for each three, 3-hour session, taking into account (a) a place of significance for the host country, (b) proper protocol and (c) that States Parties take precedence over observers.
  - How could the youth activities interact with the substance of the meeting? – If the youth attending the Review Conference have a special presentation to make, an opportune time for such a presentation no doubt could be found sometime on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.
  - And how would survivors interact with the substance of the meeting? – It is hoped that survivors would be participants in the meeting like any other attendee. That is, survivors – like all other delegates – would be members of delegations, like the ICBL. Therefore such organizations should consider the value of sharing the time at the microphone with survivors in their delegations.