



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

PRESIDENT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

Geneva, 16 December 2002

To: The Permanent Missions to the
United Nations in Geneva of the
States Parties to the Convention

CC: The Permanent Missions to the
United Nations in Geneva of the
States not Parties to the Convention

Interested non-governmental and
international organizations

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

At the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties, you entrusted me with a mandate to facilitate consultations leading to consideration – at the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties – of a variety of matters related to preparations for the Convention's First Review Conference. To allow for widespread participation in these consultations, I am pleased to seek your views on several relevant topics during open-ended consultations that will take place as follows:

Friday 31 January 2003
10:00 – 13:00
Palais des Nations - Room XXIV

To assist you in preparing for this informal meeting, I have prepared a series of questions for your consideration, which are based on the elements contained in the President's Paper that serves as the basis for my mandate. You will note that I do not wish to use this meeting to discuss matters related to the location or venue for the Review Conference. Rather, it is my desire that at this time we focus our attention on the other important topics that we must consider.

Should you have any questions about this meeting, please feel free to contact me (email: jean.lint@ties.itu.int; Tel: 022-730-4020).

Sincerely yours,

Jean Lint
Ambassador of Belgium
Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament

Encl.: Developing a Process to Prepare for the Convention's First Review Conference: Questions for Consideration

Developing a Process to Prepare for the Convention's First Review Conference: Questions for Consideration

At the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties, the President of the Meeting was mandated to undertake informal open-ended consultations on matters related to a Review Conference* preparatory process – matters which could then be considered by States Parties at the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties. These consultations are intended to cover all areas related to actions to be considered by the States Parties with respect to a preparatory process for the Review Conference, particularly the following matters:

A. The timing and duration of the preparatory process

- What matters do the States Parties wish to discuss during preparatory meetings?:
 - (i) Administrative matters such a draft agenda, programme of work, rules of procedure and cost estimates?
 - (ii) The nature and form of the review of the operation and status of the Convention?
 - (iii) The preliminary considerations of the need for and the interval between Meetings of the States Parties that would take place after the First Review Conference?
 - (iv) Adjustments to the implementation mechanisms that have been established by the States Parties since the entry-into-force of the Convention?
 - (v) Preliminary considerations concerning any conclusions related to the implementation of the Convention?
- Based upon an understanding of what it is that States Parties wish to discuss during the preparatory meetings, how much time is required for such meetings?
- When should these meetings be held?

In the interest of efficiency, cost-effectiveness and participation, could these meetings be held back-to-back with the meetings of the Standing Committees in 2004?

- What level of formality is desired for preparatory meetings?
 - Where should preparatory meetings be held?
 - Do States Parties feel that it is necessary to have formal documentation services provided by the United Nations?
 - Do States Parties feel that it is necessary that interpretation is provided at preparatory meetings in the six languages of the Convention?

B. The relationship with the Intersessional Work Programme

- How can the 2003-2004 Intersessional Work Programme interface with preparatory process and the Review Conference, especially given that the outcome of the work of the Standing Committees could have a substantial impact on the outcome of the Review Conference, particularly in relation to the overview of Convention's core humanitarian aims?

C. The timing and duration of the Review Conference

- Given the nature of the issues to be addressed in accordance with the purpose of the Review Conference, could the duration of the Conference be similar to a meeting of States Parties?
- What is the expected level of participation at the Review Conference? Is there an expectation that Foreign Ministers or International Cooperation Ministers would attend?
- Based upon an understanding of the level of participation as well as the amount of preparatory work required, when should the Review Conference be held? (Note: four of the five Meetings of the States Parties preceding the Review Conference will have been held in September. However, participation by Ministers would mean identifying a time when the Review Conference could be held which would not conflict with the opening of the UN General Assembly.)

D. Actors to facilitate the preparatory process and preside over the Review Conference

- Who should preside over the Review Conference?
- What would the President-designate's role be with respect to the preparatory process?
- What other officers would be required at the Review Conference?
- Who should fill these positions?
- Given the widespread interest amongst States Parties to ensure the success of the Review Conference, what considerations could be given to engaging a broad range of actors in work related to the preparations for the Conference?

* According to Article 12.2(a) of the Convention, the purpose of the Review Conference shall be:

1. To review the operation and status of this Convention;
2. To consider the need for and the interval between further Meetings of the States Parties referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 11;
3. To take decisions on submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5; and
4. To adopt, if necessary, in its final report conclusions related to the implementation of this Convention.