



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

PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE OF THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE

Geneva, 15 June 2004

To: The Permanent Missions to
the United Nations in Geneva

The heads of international and non-governmental
organisations in Geneva

Distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

I am very pleased to be able to distribute to you – with the help of the Department for Disarmament Affairs – the draft documentation for the Second Preparatory meeting for the Convention's First Review Conference. The Second Preparatory meeting on 28 and 29 June 2004 will be our last formal meeting before we meet in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 November to 3 December. It is therefore very important to put our scarce time to best use.

One of our tasks for the June meeting is to finalise some procedural issues that were left open at the First Preparatory Meeting in February. I have taken due note of the comments that have been made and hence made some changes, which you will find contained in revised versions of the Provisional Agenda, Provisional Programme of Work and Draft Rules of Procedure for the First Review Conference. In addition, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has issued revised Estimated Costs taking into account the comments and requests made in February.

I would appeal to you that we deal with these issues swiftly so as to be able to start discussions on the substantive draft documents.

In this regard, I am very pleased to inform you that a wealth of work has been undertaken in the past few months. As discussed at the First Preparatory Meeting, a large number of actors, including many States Parties, the ICRC, the ICBL, the United Nations and the GICHD have been very forthcoming in providing input into the Draft Review and the Draft Action Plan 2005-2009. I am particularly grateful for the active and fruitful collaboration between my informal group of *Friends of the President* (Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Norway) and the Co-Chairs (past and present) of the different Standing Committees. I am confident that you, too, will consider these drafts to be a very good basis for our discussions at the Second Preparatory Meeting.

In addition, consultations have been undertaken on the question of “nature, timing and sequencing of post-Review Conference Meeting of States Parties and related matters”. A questionnaire has been distributed with the aim of seeking your views on these issues. I am grateful for the many replies, which are currently being evaluated. I would like to advise you

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that an additional draft paper dealing with these issues will be distributed in the next few days for your consideration at the Second Preparatory Meeting. Also, as you can see from the Provisional Agenda for the Second Preparatory Meeting, there will be an opportunity for informal consultations on a high level declaration and on the adoption, if necessary, of conclusions related to the implementation of the Convention.

It is my intention to conduct our work during the Second Preparatory Meeting in a very informal manner and to focus entirely on getting as much substantive input from you as possible. We have therefore not foreseen a separate agenda item for a General Exchange of Views. Should you wish to make such comments of a more general nature, there will, of course, be an opportunity. However, I hope that you agree with me that we need to now focus as much as possible on specific substantive discussions.

In this regard, I wanted to remind you of the informal meeting in September that I announced at the First Preparatory Meeting. I am pleased to inform you that I am planning to schedule this meeting for Friday 24 September 2004 in Geneva.

I look forward to seeing you at the end of June.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wolfgang Petritsch', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wolfgang Petritsch