



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, 10 October 2003

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

CC: Interested international and
non-governmental
organizations

Distinguished Colleagues, dear friends,

Let me first thank you again for the confidence that you have expressed by designating me as President for the Convention's First Review Conference that will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 November to 3 December 2004. It is a great honour for me and for my country to be entrusted with this responsibility.

As I stated in my speech on the last day of the 5th Meeting of the States Parties in Bangkok, time is of the essence if we want to ensure a successful Review Conference. We only have three days altogether of preparatory meetings during which we will have to cover a lot of ground. An efficient preparation and organization of our work is therefore important. In order to facilitate discussions on how this could be achieved, I have prepared the enclosed paper entitled "Some initial reflections on ways to prepare for the First Review Conference" for your consideration. Given the relatively little time before the first preparatory meeting on 13 February 2004, I may be organising an informal meeting in Geneva before the end of the year to have a discussion and to hear your views on the way ahead.

I look forward to working very closely with all of you and ask you to help me with this big challenge.

Sincerely yours,

Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria
President-Designate of the First Review Conference

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