



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

Non-Paper

**Informal Open-ended Consultations held in Geneva on 31 January 2003
On matters related to
a Preparatory process for the Mine-Ban Convention's First Review Conference**

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 preparatory process for the First Review Conference— matters which could then be considered by States Parties at the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties. First open-ended consultations were held in Geneva on 31 January 2003 and attended by more than eighty participants from States Parties, representatives of non-governmental organizations, international organizations and observers.

The participants were reminded that according to Article 12, para 1:

A Review Conference shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations five years after the entry into force of this Convention (i.e. in 2004).

They were also reminded that according to Article 12, para 2:

The purpose of the Review Conference shall be:

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

Based on that knowledge, the following elements were reviewed:

A. The timing and duration of the preparatory process

The States Parties have stated that, during preparatory meetings, they wish to discuss:

- (i) Administrative matters such a draft agenda, a 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, taking into account what has been achieved during the previous meetings of States Parties and the intersessional programme of work;

- (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, as mandated by Article 12, para 2, point 2. Preliminary views were exchanged about the appropriate interval between Meetings of States Parties, including the future intersessional work programme, taking into account the importance of achieving the humanitarian aims of the Convention and the universalization process.
- (iv) Adjustments to the implementation mechanisms that have been established by the States Parties since the entry-into-force of the Convention, taking into account the decisions which will be made in relation to the interval between Meetings of States Parties.
- (v) Preliminary considerations concerning any conclusions related to the implementation of the Convention, including the Final documents of the Review Conference.

Based upon the understanding of what it is that States Parties wish to discuss during the preparatory meetings, there was a general feeling, in the interest of efficiency, cost-effectiveness and participation, that two meetings of at least one day back to back after the two intersessional meetings of 2004 would be appropriate.

Concerning the level of formality desired for preparatory meetings, there was a general feeling that the preparatory meetings be held in the United Nations building in Geneva, that formal documentation services be provided by the United Nations and that interpretation be provided at preparatory meetings in the six languages of the Convention.

B. The relationship with the Intersessional Work Programme

There was a general feeling that the 2003-2004 Intersessional Work Programme should interface with the preparatory process of the Review Conference, especially given the impact of the work of the Standing Committees on the outcome of the Review Conference, particularly in relation to the overview of Convention's core humanitarian aims.

Many expressed the view that the preparatory process should mainly focus on the procedural matters while others felt that all matters should be examined there. Many agreed that all matters could be examined in the preparatory process and in the Intersessional Work Programme in a mutually reinforcing process and taking care to avoid duplication between the two processes.

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, there was a general feeling that the duration of the Conference be similar to a meeting of States Parties, that is five days.

In relation to the expected level of participation at the Review Conference, there was a general feeling that it should be high level, in order to generate the publicity desired for the event.

Based upon the understanding of the level of participation as well as the amount of preparatory work required, there was a general feeling that the Review Conference be held in September 2004 or later in the year, taking into account the calendar of the United Nations General Assembly.

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

As to whom should preside over the Review Conference, views were expressed regarding a de-linkage between the host country and the nationality of the President, a balance between affected and donor countries and the possibility of having an honorary President.

There was a general view that the President-designate or his/her representative would be involved in all phases of the preparatory process.

There was a general feeling that other officers would be required at the Review Conference, such as Vice-Presidents, a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary.

There was a general view that the co-chairs of the Standing Committees, but not automatically, should fill the positions of Vice-Presidents, that the Secretary-General would be of the nationality of the host country and that the Executive Secretary would be nominated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Given the widespread interest amongst States Parties to ensure the success of the Review Conference, it was acknowledged that a broad range of actors should be engaged in work related to the preparations for the Conference, such as ICBL, ICRC as well as relevant organizations.