



18 August 2008

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

Relevant international and non-governmental
organizations

CC: The Permanent Missions to the United Nations
(Geneva) of the States not parties to the
Convention

Dear friends,

It was my pleasure to share with you on 6 June 2008 my initial ideas and draft programme for the 24-28 November 2008 Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. I was equally grateful to obtain a sense from you that I am proceeding in a manner that is to your liking.

Since June I have been working to prepare a variety of matters concerning the 9MSP. In keeping with the Convention's culture of transparency and inclusiveness, it is important for me to seek your input on these preparations. It was for this reason that I had indicated in June that I would convene an informal meeting on 3 September in Geneva. At this time, I would like to confirm my intention to proceed with such a meeting, which will take place as follows:

Informal meeting to discuss 9MSP preparations
Wednesday 3 September – 13:00-15:00
Palais des Nations, Room XVI¹

My hope is that at this informal meeting you will seize the opportunity to provide me with input on the main substantive matters to be discussed at the 9MSP. In addition, there will be an opportunity at this meeting for you to share views on any other matter that concerns the 9MSP. As well, updates on organizational matters will be provided.

To assist you in preparing for this informal meeting, enclosed you will find an agenda, a guide to the 9MSP Programme, an initial draft *Geneva Progress Report 2007-2008*, and proposals that are being presented by Norway and jointly by Lithuania and Serbia.

I trust that the meeting on 3 September will be well used as a forum to exchange views. However, please feel free at any time to share your thoughts with me on the substantive preparations for the 9MSP.

I look forward to seeing you on 3 September.

Your sincerely,

Jürg Streuli
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament &
9MSP President-Designate

¹ Room XVI is on the Pregny Gate side of the Assembly Hall on floor 5 (above the Assembly Hall), accessible from doors 13 and 15.