

PROPOSED DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2009

**Prepared by the President-Designate of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties
Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland**

30 May 2009

**For discussion on 6 June 2008 at the meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status
and Operation of the Convention**

As noted in the 2 April 2008 paper *Initial ideas concerning, and suggested agenda and programme for, the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties*, the 9MSP will need to agree to a preparatory process for the Second Review Conference. It was further stated that the precedent set by the First Review Conference may be useful to follow:

- Two preparatory meetings – one being one day in length (perhaps in May or June 2009) and the other two days in length (perhaps in September 2009) may be sufficient, as they were in the lead-up to the First Review Conference. This would also be extremely cost effective.
- One preparatory meeting could take place immediately after meetings of the Standing Committees in 2009. This would enable participation by sponsored delegates.
- As was the case in the lead-up to the First Review Conference, the President-Designate of the Second Review Conference could convene additional informal meetings if deemed necessary.

On this basis, the following dates for meetings in 2009 are proposed:

Meetings of the Standing Committees

- Monday 25 May to mid-day Friday 29 May

First Preparatory Meeting

- Afternoon of Friday 29 May

Second Preparatory Meeting

- Thursday 3 September to Friday 4 September

Second Review Conference

- Monday 30 November to Friday 4 December

It should be noted that this proposal would foresee the meetings of the Standing Committees and the First Preparatory Meeting being contained within a five-day period.

With effective time management, possibly by using sessions that are longer than traditional three-hour time blocks, it should be possible to fit the work of the Standing Committees into a 4.5 day period. This would allow for half-day Preparatory Meeting which in turn should be sufficient as the First Preparatory Meeting likely would address proposed matters of substance in very general terms and would largely be focused on dealing with procedural matters (e.g. draft programme, cost estimates, et cetera).

Containing meetings of the Standing Committees and the First Preparatory Meeting within a five-day period is a near-necessity given the disarmament calendar in May 2009 and the number of holidays between the weeks of 27 April to 1 June that limit the number of weeks that include five full working days. However, doing so would also be efficient and cost-effective for the Sponsorship Programme.