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INITIAL IDEAS CONCERNING, AND SUGGESTED AGENDA AND PROGRAMME FOR, THE NINTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES (9MSP)

Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland
President-Designate

2 April 2008

Introduction

The 9MSP will need to fulfill one of the same aims as the Sixth through Eighth Meetings – assessing progress made over the past year in the application of the *Nairobi Action Plan*. The 9MSP therefore should work towards welcoming the *Geneva Progress Report 2007-2008*, which would record progress made in the application of the *Nairobi Action Plan* since the 8MSP. Accordingly, the “consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention” at the 9MSP would feature thematic discussions and updates along the lines of the main subject headings in the *Nairobi Action Plan*. As in the past, adequate time would be allocated to each topic in the *Nairobi Action Plan* and discussions would be sequenced in accordance with their sequencing in the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The 9MSP will differ from all other Meetings of the States Parties, however, in that at the 9MSP, for the first time, the States Parties will need to consider requests submitted under Article 5 of the Convention. In addition, the 9MSP will need to take decisions on matters concerning preparations for the Second Review Conference.

Article 5 extension requests & the 9MSP programme

The 9MSP programme will need to take into account the amount of time needed for the presentation and consideration of requests submitted under Article 5. This may also affect the sequencing of agenda items.

It may be useful to have an informal session immediately after a general exchange of views for requesting States Parties to present their requests, for the 8MSP President to present the analysis of requests and for others to ask questions.¹ Following this the 9MSP could consider other matters related to the operations of the Convention (e.g., stockpiled destruction, universalization, victim assistance, etc.) and then, at the end of the week, revert to the question of formal consideration of extension requests. This would provide time during the course of the week for interested delegations to informally discuss requests presented.

Unlike in recent years when it was reasonable to discourage general statements from being delivered, there may be a desire on the part of many to engage in general debate at the outset of the Meeting. Hence, additional time may be required for this. Given the demands for time at the 9MSP, it may be useful to ensure that an opening ceremony the morning of 24 November lasts no more than one hour.

Rules of procedure / method of decision making on requests

The rules of procedure for the 9MSP do not need to be amended as every MSP’s rules have included the possibility that decisions could be taken on Article 5 extension requests. The rules of procedure refer to the procedures contained in the Convention: “The Meeting of the States Parties or the Review Conference shall, taking into consideration the factors contained in (Article 5) paragraph 4, assess the request and decide by a majority of votes of States Parties present and voting whether to grant the request for an extension period.” The rules of procedure go on to say the following:

¹ The 7MSP agreed inter alia “that the President and the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees, jointly prepare an analysis of (each) request indicating, inter alia: clarifications of facts sought and received from the requesting State; demining plans for the extension period; resource and assistance needs and gaps.”

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- *For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives of States Parties present and voting" means representatives of States Parties present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.*
- *The Meeting of the States Parties shall normally vote by show of hands or by standing, but any representative may request a roll-call. The roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Meeting of the States Parties, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President.*

Review Conference Preparatory Process

The 9MSP will need to agree to a preparatory process for the Second Review Conference. 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.

Presidency and Location of the Second Review Conference

The 9MSP will need to designate a President for the Second Review Conference and decide on the dates, duration and location of the Second Review Conference. A five-day meeting is probably sufficient, with the timing being in early December 2009 to ensure sufficient time for preparations. Two States Parties have formally indicated their interest in hosting the Second Review Conference. It would be optimal to see if this matter, as well as the matter of the Presidency, could be worked out well before the 9MSP.

Geneva, 24-28 November 2008
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Official opening of the meeting
2. Election of the President
3. Brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations.
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure
6. Adoption of the budget
7. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers
8. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting
9. Organization of work
10. General exchange of views
11. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests
12. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
 - (a) Universalizing the Convention
 - (b) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines
 - (c) Clearing mined areas
 - (d) Assisting the victims
 - (e) Other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims
 - i. Cooperation and assistance
 - ii. Transparency and the exchange of information
 - iii. Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance.
 - iv. Implementation Support
13. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5
14. Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7
15. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8
16. Date, duration and location of the Second Review Conference, and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Second Review Conference

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17. Any other business
 18. Consideration and adoption of the final document
 19. Closure of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties
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NINTH MEETING OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE,
STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

2 April 2008

Geneva, 24-28 November 2008
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK

Monday 24 November

10:00 – 11:00

Opening ceremony

11:00 – 13:00

1. Official opening of the meeting
2. Election of the President
3. Brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations.
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure
6. Adoption of the budget
7. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers
8. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting
9. Organization of work
10. General exchange of views

15:00 – 18:00

10. General exchange of views (continued)

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Tuesday 25 November

10:00 – 13:00

11. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests

15:00 – 18:00

11. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (continued).

Wednesday 26 November

10:00 – 13:00

11. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (continued).

15:00 – 18:00

12. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

- (a) Universalizing the Convention
- (b) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

Thursday 27 November

10:00 – 13:00

12. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (c) Clearing mined areas

15:00 – 18:00

12. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (d) Assisting the victims

15:00 – 18:00

Friday 28 November

10:00 – 13:00

12. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (e) Other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims
 - i. Cooperation and assistance
 - ii. Transparency and the exchange of information
 - iii. Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance.
 - iv. Implementation Support

13. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

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15:00 – 18:00

14. Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7

15. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8

16. Date, duration and location of the Second Review Conference, and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Second Review Conference.

17. Any other business

18. Consideration and adoption of the final document

19. Closure of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties