

**2020 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY
ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

27 March 2020

Excellency,

I refer to my letter dated 25 March 2020, in which I sought agreement by States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to postpone the 2020 NPT Review Conference to a later date, as soon as the circumstances permit, but no later than April 2021.

By today's deadline, I have received written confirmation from the coordinators of the Eastern European Group, the Western European and Others Group, and the Non-Aligned Movement that their members all agree to the postponement of the Review Conference. I have also received written confirmation from China that it agrees to the postponement of the Review Conference.

The 2020 NPT Review Conference is, therefore, postponed to a later date, as soon as circumstances permit, but no later than April 2021.

I appreciate that this is an outcome that States Parties have not come to lightly, especially given the dual anniversaries celebrated by the Treaty this year, the fiftieth anniversary of its entry into force and the twenty-fifth anniversary of its indefinite extension. However, due to current circumstances and the rapidly evolving situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe this is the safest course of action.

I can assure States Parties that as President-designate, I, along with the other members of the Bureau and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, will continue to monitor developments and update States Parties as the situation evolves, including regarding possible new dates for the Conference. The Secretariat will circulate a note verbale to all States Parties concerning the deadlines mentioned in the document entitled "Information for States parties, observer States and intergovernmental organizations" (NPT/CONF.2020/INF/1).

The Review Conference will be held, and it will undertake its important responsibilities as a pillar of international peace and security, and as the lynchpin of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. In the interim, I encourage all States Parties to consider how they can work together to ensure success at the tenth NPT Review Conference.

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
of NPT States Parties to the United Nations
New York

I would like to once again express my great appreciation for all States Parties' understanding regarding the extraordinary circumstances that have precipitated this outcome and to avail of this opportunity to express my solidarity with States Parties who are fighting COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gustavo Zlauvinen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

Gustavo Zlauvinen
President-designate