

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

21 July 2021

Excellency,

I refer to my letter dated 28 May 2021 in which I recalled the decision by the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to postpone the Tenth NPT Review Conference to a later date no later than August 2021. In that letter, I further recalled that I had requested the booking of the necessary facilities and conference services for the period 2-27 August 2021 for the holding of the Tenth NPT Review Conference at United Nations Headquarters, consistent with the Review Conference's original requirements, and I presented my proposal for a decision regarding the dates of the Review Conference in light of the conditions and limitations in the planning of the Review Conference imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since May 2021, I held several rounds of consultations, including with NPT political groups, as well as in all-States Parties format. I listened carefully to the interventions of States Parties during these consultations, and I also had the opportunity to discuss the matter with the other members of the Bureau, to hold supplementary bilateral discussions, as well as a meeting with the presidents of other disarmament meetings scheduled during the three sets of dates provided by the Secretariat during the period 6 December 2021 – 11 February 2022.

As States Parties will recall, on 17 June, the Secretariat circulated my revised proposal for a decision, with the blank dates in brackets, which took into account comments that had been made by delegations, either through the responses from the NPT groups, or during my bilateral consultations. I have not received any objection to the text. States Parties remain united in their appreciation of the importance of the NPT and in a recognition that the Review Conference should be held as soon as possible, in a format that allows for substantive consideration of all three pillars.

Based on the intensive consultations I have held, it is my understanding that:

1. The States Parties stressed their preference for conducting the Tenth NPT Review Conference as soon as possible, in an in-person format that would accord with the priorities set out by the States Parties for the Conference and the actions envisaged to be taken at the Conference as agreed upon during the meetings of the Preparatory Committee.

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

2. The States Parties agreed that the current and foreseen restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic cannot ensure the holding of the Tenth Review Conference during the tentative dates of 2-27 August 2021 in a format that would allow for an equitable and qualitative access, thus hampering substantial discussions and negotiations. I have therefore asked the Secretariat to release the August 2021 booking, so that it can be used for other meetings.

3. The States Parties agreed on a further postponement of the Conference, which should be held no later than February 2022. The States Parties hoped that the global and local epidemiological situation will not keep postponing the Conference indefinitely.

Based on the views expressed by States Parties during the consultations, it is clear that, under the current extraordinary circumstances, there is no perfect set of dates for holding the Review Conference, in particular because the three sets of dates proposed by the UN Secretariat overlap with other disarmament-related meetings. However, the urgency of the matters to be considered at the NPT Review Conference makes it imperative to take a decision and book the necessary facilities and services, so that States Parties can start preparations for the Conference.

Having considered all available options, I have reached the conclusion that the initial set of dates of 4 – 28 January 2022 is the most feasible one for the convening of the Review Conference. I will therefore request the Secretariat to book the necessary facilities and conference services for those dates.

Taking into account the extraordinary circumstances imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the unpredictability of its evolution, I will convene informal consultations with all States Parties in early October 2021 in order to evaluate the situation and the conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to confirm the dates of the Conference.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for all States Parties' continued flexibility and understanding, as well as my gratitude for their commitment to ensuring that the Tenth NPT Review Conference will be held, allowing the NPT to fulfil its role as a pillar of international peace and security, and as the lynchpin of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The members of the Bureau and I will continue to work closely together with the States Parties to ensure further preparation of the Conference.

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



Gustavo Zlauvinen
President-designate