

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

30 December 2021

Excellency,

I refer to my letter dated 28 December 2021, in which I outlined the information provided by the United Nations Secretariat that, due to the latest developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat would not be able to service an in-person meeting of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in January 2022, as conveyed to me in the letter dated 27 December 2021 from the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In my letter, I noted that at informal consultations held on 28 December 2021, the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons expressed the position that, under the current circumstances, the Review Conference could not proceed on 4 January, as per the previous decision taken on 25 October 2021.

I stated that, consistent with this position, unless I received any indications to the contrary by 17:00 on 29 December 2021, I would take it that States Parties have decided not to convene the Tenth Review Conference starting on 4 January 2022, and to postpone it further.

I have received no such indications. It is, therefore, my understanding that the following decision is adopted:

1. The States Parties agree not to convene the Tenth NPT Review Conference starting on 4 January 2022, and to postpone it further.

Furthermore, and based on consultations with States Parties this morning, it is my understanding that States Parties:

2. Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat that the UN Department of General Assembly and Conference Management has identified any four weeks between 1 August and 3 September 2022 as the next possible option with two conference rooms large enough for the full membership and interpretation services in all six official languages

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

on a reimbursable basis. As before, the tentative assignment of these dates, consistent with the Review Conference's original requirements, would be under the assumption that conference facilities and operations at UN Headquarters would have fully returned to the pre-pandemic level, with no medical, safety-related and operational restrictions in place anymore.

In this regard, I will request the UN Secretariat to place a tentative hold on the dates of 1 - 26 August 2022. As I stressed during consultations, this does not constitute a formal decision, rather it is simply to ensure States Parties are able to use those dates should they decide to. A formal decision on the dates will need to be taken at a later time, but not later than 3 months before the opening of the Review Conference.

In addition, and in response to comments made by several delegations during today's consultations, the Bureau and I, together with the Provisional Secretariat, will consider other options that could allow States Parties to convene the Review Conference at an earlier date, while ensuring the safety of delegations and UN staff, and the need for equal participation and meaningful and substantive discussions and negotiations.

It is my intention to continue holding informal consultations with all States Parties in the following weeks in order to consider options that could facilitate a formal decision on the dates of the Review Conference as soon as possible.

I take this opportunity to once again express my deep appreciation to all States Parties for their enduring support and for the spirit of flexibility and cooperation they have displayed throughout the extended postponement of the Tenth Review Conference caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I realize that it is deeply disappointing for States Parties not to be able carry out the important work of the Review Conference, but the present circumstances do not leave us any choice.

I will circulate further information regarding next steps in due course.

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



Gustavo Zlauvinen
President-designate