

On 27 March 2020, I announced the postponement of the 2020 Review Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to a later date, as soon as the circumstances permit, but no later than April 2021.

The Bureau has consulted extensively with the United Nations Secretariat regarding potential new dates for the Conference. Our efforts have been guided by the need to secure dates that will allow States Parties to properly undertake the Review Conference's vital work. Unfortunately, the lack of clarity surrounding when the current circumstances will end, combined with the number of meetings in 2020 that have been postponed, as well as the already heavy schedule of meetings for 2021, has led to significant constraints on the availability of dates for the foreseeable future.

Consequently, the only option that meets the requirements of States Parties between now and August 2021 is to hold the Review Conference at UN Headquarters from 4-29 January 2021. While not ideal, other options would have required significant downsizing of the Review Conference.

I have been advised that, due to the current situation, even these dates remain tentative and can only likely be confirmed once activities resume at UN Headquarters. At that time, if the COVID-19 situation would allow it and no alternative dates can be confirmed, I will, therefore, seek a formal decision from States Parties to hold the Review Conference from 4-29 January 2021.

I hope States Parties will concur that, given the extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves, settling dates for the Review Conference as soon as possible should be the utmost priority. Ensuring it is able to undertake its critical responsibilities should be our primary goal.

I would like to express my deep gratitude for all States Parties' understanding regarding the extraordinary circumstances that have precipitated this situation and to take this opportunity to express my solidarity with States Parties who are fighting COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.