
First Preparatory Meeting
Geneva, 13 February 2004
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Preparing a High Level Declaration for the Review Conference

Discussion Paper by the President-Designate

1. The First Review Conference will stand out as being different from annual Meetings of the States Parties. One of the most prominent matters making the First Review Conference different is that the States Parties have “urged participation at the highest possible level in a high-level segment to be held at the end of the First Review Conference.”
2. The fact that several States Parties may be represented possibly by heads of state or government or by senior ministers suggests that the declaration of the Review Conference – a High Level Declaration – also should be different in nature. As suggested in the *food-for-thought* paper which I distributed in October, such a document should be “political” so as to provide a focus for the participation in the Review Conference by high-level representatives.
3. Certain matters should be taken into consideration for the preparation of the High Level Declaration. As noted by many delegations at the informal meeting on 1 December, all documentation for the Review Conference should convey:
 - powerful and clear messages about the success of the Convention to date;
 - challenges that remain and
 - renewed commitments for the full implementation of the Convention.
4. This is especially the case with respect to the High Level Declaration. This document must stand out as something that the media and general public will accept as the important reflections and collective commitments of High Level Representatives.
5. The States Parties will wish that a wide range of substance is incorporated into the final body of documentation agreed to at the Review Conference. This no doubt is possible. However, with respect the High Level Declaration – which would be only one element of the overall documentation – I would urge the States Parties to focus on the key messages. It is of utmost importance that this document be concise and remain focused. I would suggest in particular that strive to keep the High Level Declaration limited to approximately one-page in length.