

United Nations  Nations Unies

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the 1976 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, which entered into force on 5 October 1978.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations would like to recall that pursuant to article VIII, paragraph 1 of the Convention, five years after its entry into force, a conference of the States Parties to the Convention shall be convened by the Depositary to review the operation of the Convention with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions are being realized, and shall in particular examine the effectiveness of the provisions of paragraph 1 of article I in eliminating the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques. Further review conferences with the same objectives may be held at intervals of not less than five years thereafter.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations would like, in particular, to recall that pursuant to article VIII, paragraph 3 of the Convention, “if no conference has been convened pursuant to paragraph 2 of this article within ten years following the conclusion of a previous conference, the Depositary shall solicit the views of all States Parties to this Convention concerning the convening of such a conference. If one third or ten of the States Parties, whichever number is less, respond affirmatively, the Depositary shall take immediate steps to convene the conference”.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations would also like to recall that the First review conference of the States Parties to this convention was organized in September 1984 in Geneva, Switzerland, and that the Second review conference of the States Parties to the Convention was organized in September 1992 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Second review conference recognized the importance of the review mechanism provided in article VIII of the Convention and decided that a Third review conference might be held at the request of a majority of States Parties not earlier than 1997, and that if no review conference was held before 2002, the Depositary was requested to solicit the views of all State Parties concerning such a conference.

Against this background, the Secretary-General of the United Nations would like to solicit the views of the States Parties to the Convention on the convening of the Third review conference of the States Parties to the Convention with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions are being realized and examine the effectiveness of the provisions of paragraph 1 of article I in eliminating the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques. Pursuant to article VIII, paragraph 3 of the Convention, if one third or ten of the States Parties, whichever number is less, respond affirmatively, the Secretary-General of the United Nations will take immediate steps to convene the Third review conference at the earliest practicable time.

The States Parties are invited to submit their views on the convening of the Third review conference by 1 May 2013 at the latest at the following address:

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T. C. H.