

16 January 2006
English only

**Preparatory Committee for the United Nations
Conference to Review Progress Made in the
Implementation of the Programme of Action to
Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in
Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 9-20 January 2006**

Synchronization of the Review Conference And Biennial Meetings of States

(Submitted by India, the Netherlands and South Africa)

Background:

The 2006 United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects may decide to recommend the convening of a further Review Conference in future for the effective follow up of the Conference.

The two follow up mechanisms - Review Conferences and Biennial Meetings of States - serve distinct but complementary purposes and contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action. Therefore, synchronization of Review Conferences and Biennial Meetings of States assumes importance to ensure that States have the opportunity to remain engaged with the issues of implementation of the Programme of Action on a regular basis.

The following options for synchronization of Review Conferences and Biennial Meetings of States are not exhaustive but are meant to catalyze discussions. Member States will have the opportunity to consider them further at the Review Conference in June-July 2006.

Options for synchronization:

Option 1: Continuing with the periodicity of Review Conference and Biennial Meetings of States from the 2001-2006 cycle:

2007	BMS
2008	-
2009	BMS
2010	-
2011	RevCon

This is in accordance with the existing format. Meetings of States will be held biennially and the Review Conference will be held after an interval of five years. However, the BMS in 2007 will be held only a year after this year's Review Conference.

Option 2: Repeating the same periodicity of Review Conferences and Biennial Meetings of States as in the 2001-2006 cycle:

2007	-
2008	BMS
2009	-
2010	BMS
2011	RevCon

Again, this would be as per the spirit of the existing format. Meetings of States will be held biennially and the Review Conference will be held after an interval of five years. Unlike in option 1, the first BMS will be held two years after the Review Conference. The drawback is that, like the present cycle, the Review Conference will be held only a year after the BMS in 2010.

Option 3: Stipulating a six-year cycle: even spacing of BMS, and a Review Conference after 6 years:

2007	-
2008	BMS
2009	-
2010	BMS
2011	-
2012	BMS and RevCon

This option foresees that a BMS will be held two years after the Review Conference of 2006. The BMS in 2012 will be held back-to-back with the Review Conference, clearly distinguishing their respective functions and offering financial and efficiency gains, both for States as well as for the UN Secretariat. This option suggests a six-year interval for the Review Conference, instead of the existing 5 years cycle.
