

31 January 1995

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky  
Secretary-General of the Conference/Personal Representative  
of the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

*As you are well aware*

The Secretariat is mandated by the General Assembly to report to the Conference on the services to be assigned to it during the 1995 session. As in previous sessions, the Conference will be allocated ten meetings per week with full services, and 15 meetings per week with full services during the sessions of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events. In other words, we should be able to hold two daily meetings with full services throughout the whole of the 1995 session, plus one additional daily meeting when the Seismic Group is in session.

I am sure I need not remind you that the United Nations continues to face a serious financial crisis. It is therefore incumbent on us to make the best possible use of the resources allocated to us. In this respect, I should like to remind delegations that, during 1994, over 200 hours of budgeted meeting time were unutilized due to either late starting, early finishing or cancellation of meetings. I should like to call on you all to show the maximum cooperation and flexibility in using all the time allocated to the Conference. For example, as the work of the Conference intensifies, it may be necessary to hold meetings of subsidiary bodies consecutively. This practice has in the past prevented the waste of allocated resources in the event of early adjournment of meetings. Punctuality in starting meetings is important. It is also understood that meetings with full services cannot be held in the evening or during weekends.

The situation with regard to documentation in the United Nations has now reached a critical stage. The volume of documentation has spiralled upward beyond the capacity of Conference Service to process it in a timely manner. I wish to recall, again, that the measures accepted by the Conference at the informal meeting held on 22 April 1986 concerning savings in documentation continue to be valid. In order to implement these decisions, all documents need to be

presented well in advance and duplication of documentation should be avoided. In addition, I wish to recall the statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Fifth Committee on 26 August 1993, in which he stressed that in view of the financial situation of the United Nations, no efforts should be spared in exercising restraint in meetings and documentation.

I would also like to remind delegations to submit as soon as possible their letters of accreditation so that we may issue passes granting access to the Conference rooms, as well as the list of participants. Delegates are kindly requested to carry with them either their CD passes or at least the identification provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva.

With regard to conference room facilities available for the CD, they will be: the Council Chamber, Room I, Room C-108, Room III and the Secretariat conference room on the sixth floor. When delegations need such facilities for their consultations, I wish to suggest that, in order to avoid any overlapping, they kindly address a request to the Conference Officer, Ms. Pasqualin, who is responsible for coordinating and assigning such services.