

Thematic discussion: Mine clearance and completion deadlines 23 May

As long as landmines are in the ground, they continue to kill, maim and serve as a deterrent to development. Speedy survey and clearance is therefore of utmost importance. Article 5 of the Mine Ban Convention requires each State Party to clear all mined areas “ under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible, but not later than ten years after the entry into force” of the Convention. Further, States Parties are obliged to “make every effort to identify all areas ... known or suspected” of contamination.

31 States Parties have completed clearance and been declared mine-free since the entry into force of the Convention. More than 95% of all recorded clearance has been by states parties. With only 6 more years to go before 2025, and 32 States Parties still in the process of meeting mine clearance deadlines in accordance with Article 5, there is a need to increase the speed of survey and clearance. Too many affected states are not on track to meeting their deadlines for completion. In many of these states, landmine contamination is low or modest, and with the right approach and commitment, clearance could be completed within a few years. Country-specific approaches may assist these countries. Mine Action Review urges every state party to determine an accurate and up-to-date baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination; elaborate a well-drafted national mine action strategy and workplan for survey and clearance; and ensure contamination is being systematically addressed as efficiently as possible, through application of evidence-based land release methodology.

Far more experience, new technology and vastly improved methodologies are available to the mine action sector today than when the Mine Ban Convention was adopted in 1997. New methods of land release have increased the efficiency of survey and clearance. However, too many countries have still not identified the extent of contamination as a starting point for national mine action programs, and in line with Action 8 of the Maputo Action Plan. This needs to be addressed in coming years.

Format and purpose

The thematic discussions intend to inform and provide impetus towards the development of a strong Oslo Action Plan. Each thematic discussion will be chaired by the President and will rely on a panel of presenters to frame the issue from their perspective through short presentations. The floor will then be open for all participants to share their views and ideas for the development of the Oslo Action

Speakers:

Landminefree2025 Campaign

Committee on Article 5 implementation

Mine Action Review

Questions for discussion

- What elements should the Oslo Action Plan contain to support reaching the 2025 goal in as many countries as possible?
- How can we create the necessary links that ensure national authorities, operators and donors come together in such concerted efforts for completion? How can affected countries be encouraged to secure accurate baseline data for clearance ?
- Is there merit to identifying countries most likely to reach completion within set years (2021, 2022, 2025 etc.) in order to rally specific and coordinated support for these countries?

- How can the Convention community ensure that survey and clearance is carried out using the most efficient methodologies in line with IMAS?
- What role do donors play? How can donors partner around completion goals? How can funds be raised to ensure the 2025 goal can be reached in as many countries as possible? Are there other elements than simply financial support that are important for countries in a position to provide assistance to keep in mind?