

INITIAL IDEAS AND DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

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President-Designate of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties

**Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
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The Convention emerged from the human tragedy caused by mines in Cambodia as well as in so many other locations around the world.

Unlike other disarmament treaties, born in Washington or Moscow, or Geneva or New York, this Convention emerged from the reality faced by people in Cambodia, in Mozambique, in Nicaragua, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Afghanistan, and in countless other mine infested towns, villages, farms, communities and countries around the world.

Up until the mid 1990s, the anti-personnel mine was used seemingly without question as to its consequences. Thanks to the international movement that grew out of such places as Cambodia, the world became well aware that there are indeed tragic consequences.

And more than anything, the experience of countries like Cambodia and the tireless efforts of the ICBL put a human face on this issue.

With the 11MSP, the Convention is returning to a place where it all started two decades ago.

As such, the 11MSP is a chance for the international community to recall how far we have come.

In the formal proceedings of the 11MSP as well as in the events that surround it, let us take stock of how things have changed and progressed since a face was first put on the landmine issue.

The 11MSP, taking place in what remains one of the most mine affected countries in the world, is also our chance to show the world that this very much is an issue we still live with today.

In Cambodia, we are devastated to see that mines and other explosive devices continue to kill and injure on almost a daily basis.

The 11MSP, therefore, can be our springboard to further action and our opportunity to state that our commitment to this cause will not end until the task is complete.

More than anything, the 11MSP is a chance to remember that the Convention has a human face.

It is the face of a sister, brother, mother, father or child who has lost a loved one as a result of a mine.

But it is also the face of the survivor, like Song Kosal, who has gone on to inspire us and who has issued a call for us to assure the rights of all who are living with a disability.

The face of the Convention is the farmer who knowingly takes risks in cultivating land in hazardous areas when he or she has little option when it comes to feeding their family.

As well, the face of the Convention is the deminer carrying out painstaking efforts to free this land of its deadly bondage.

My hope is that the 11MSP will ensure that this human face is evident.

At the 11MSP, the States Parties will need to take decisions on the Convention's processes and its machinery.

These matters are but means to an end and we must remember that there are faces behind these decisions.

I propose that the human face of the Convention be front and centre at the 11MSP, including at an informal session during the plenary of the 11MSP which would reflect on two decades of efforts of a wide range of actors to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

I look forward to working with States Parties and civil society in planning this informal session.

I am grateful already for the good ideas that Kasia, Denise and Kosal from the ICBL provided to me earlier this week.

The 11MSP is also the culmination of the second year of the application of the Cartagena Action Plan.

In this regard and in keeping with the practices, I intend to produce the Phnom Penh Progress Report to measure progress since the 10MSP and to highlight priority areas of work to be acted upon between the 11MSP and the 12MSP.

In addition, the 11MSP will need to consider the following matters:

- The 10MSP President has been mandated to conclude an amended agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on the Implementation Support Unit, and, to establish an informal open-ended working group to examine new models for financing the ISU. The 11MSP will serve as an opportunity to bring closure to these tasks.
- The 10MSP President has been tasked with submitting ideas regarding how many Co-Chairs / Co-Rapporteurs may be required to ensure the effective functioning of the mechanisms established by the States Parties, with a view to a decision to be taken on this matter at the 11MSP. In addition, subject to such a decision, the 11MSP will need to elect Co-Chairs / Co-Rapporteurs.
- In addition, the 11MSP will need to consider requests for mine clearance extensions that have been submitted by Algeria, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Eritrea.

As well, we will need to take decisions regarding the dates for meetings in 2011 and the 12MSP Presidency.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations in Geneva, His Excellency Matjaž Kovačič, has indicated that he would be pleased to offer his services to the States Parties by Presiding over the 12MSP.

I find this to be a very positive development as Slovenia has a long standing commitment to the Convention and its presidency would continue to ensure that wide diversity of States Parties has taken on this role of responsibility.

Regarding the dates for meetings in 2012, I propose that the 12MSP take place in Geneva from either 26 to 30 November or 3 to 7 December 2012.

With respect to meetings of the Standing Committees, I would note that the disarmament calendar is busy in May and June of next year and is further complicated by two public holidays in May.

We must also take into account the availability of the WMO facilities.

In this regard, I would like to propose the week of 21-25 May for meetings of the Standing Committees.

Regarding the draft programme for the 11MSP, which I distributed to you on 9 June, the general format is the same as the programme used at the 9MSP and the 10MSP.

The main features of the programme that I wish to propose are as follows:

- First: Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the 11MSP, States Parties and observers would be encouraged to refrain from making general statements but rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters, particularly in connection with the Cartagena Action Plan.

In addition, if they wish, delegations could distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements. An exception would be made for high level participants, given that there is a possibility of Ministerial-level participation, particularly from South East Asia.

- Second: In keeping with the practices successfully employed since 2008, at the beginning of the meeting there would be an opportunity for informal presentations of and discussions on Article 5 extension requests with the States Parties returning to formal consideration of these requests on the final day of the meeting.
- Third: As noted, we would seize the opportunity of the Convention returning to one of the places where this movement was born twenty years ago to stage an informal session to reflect on two decades of efforts of a wide range of actors to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

- Fourth: In keeping with the manner in which we have traditionally organized our work, the “consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention” would be organized thematically to include universalization, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance and the other matters important for achieving our aims.
- And Fifth: Matters related to the Implementation Support Unit would be dealt with the afternoon of Thursday 1 December.

In terms of next steps, I intend to proceed as follows, seeking the cooperation and support of the States Parties and others every step along the way:

- If the agenda and programme that I have proposed are generally acceptable, I will proceed in requesting that the Implementation Support Unit transmit them to the 11MSP Executive Secretary for adoption at the beginning of the 11MSP.
- Working in close cooperation with the Co-Chairs and others, I will proceed in preparing a first draft of a progress report covering the period from the close of the 10MSP until the 11MSP.

I will draw extensively on Article 7 transparency reports and the updates provided by States Parties during this week’s meetings.

Additional initial input would be welcome in writing by 1 July. I would also ask that you to provide to me, by July 1st, any views on the dates I have proposed for meetings in 2012.

- In late August, I will distribute a first draft of the Phnom Penh Progress Report to you.
- On Monday 5 September from 15:00 to 18:00 in Geneva, I will convene an informal meeting in advance of the 11MSP.

The purpose of this meeting will be to seek your views with respect to the draft progress report and to review the other matters of substance that are being prepared for the 11MSP.

Dear friends:

In conclusion, I hope that the draft programme that I have presented to you is acceptable.

In addition, I look forward to your full support in ensuring that the human face of this Convention is front and centre at the 11MSP.

Thank you.