

## **INITIAL IDEAS REGARDING THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES**

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President-Designate of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties**

**27 April 2012**

**(For discussion on 25 May 2012 at the meeting of the  
Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention)**

In the year leading up to the 12MSP we find ourselves at the half-way point in the application of the Cartagena Action Plan. We have the opportunity to conduct a mid-term assessment of our efforts, recording in a 12MSP Geneva Progress Report the challenges that we have encountered and the work that remains in meeting our Cartagena Action Plan commitments. The 12MSP should produce clarity on these two matters – challenges encountered thus far and expectations for what we can still achieve by the time of a Third Review Conference at the end of 2014. States Parties are therefore encouraged to provide the information necessary for the Presidency to use the Progress Report as a de facto mid-term assessment.

The 12MSP is also significant because it should serve as the culmination of a great deal of work mandated by the 11MSP:

- The 11MSP noted that the Convention is silent on how to address situations where States Parties, which never have reported Article 5 obligations, discover previously unknown mined areas. The 11MSP further noted a need to develop a rational response to such situations which is firmly anchored in the object and purpose of the Convention and which does not undermine the legal obligations to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas as soon as possible. In this context, the 11MSP requested that the President, supported by the Coordinating Committee, consult with all relevant stakeholders to prepare a constructive discussion on this matter at the May 2012 meetings of the Standing Committees with a view to recommendations on this matter being submitted for consideration at the 12MSP.
- The 11MSP noted that the Article 5 extension request process places a heavy burden on the representatives of those States Parties that are mandated to analyse the requests and in this context recommended that those States Parties mandated to analyse requests in 2012 reflect on the process to date with a view to identifying efficient methods to ensure that high quality requests and analyses are prepared and with a view to recommendations on this matter being submitted for consideration the 12MSP.
- The 11MSP, having noted suggestions to consider whether the interactive character of the annual Meeting of the States Parties could not be enhanced and its duration shortened while improving its overall effectiveness, decided that the Coordinating Committee brainstorm on this item in the first half of 2012 and that the May 2012 intersessional meetings discuss it and submit, through the President, recommendations to the 12MSP in this regard.

The 12MSP programme will need to take the above-mentioned items of business into account in addition to dealing with the following regular matters that must be considered at Meetings of the States Parties:

- The 12MSP will need to consider requests for extensions on mine clearance deadlines that have been or will be submitted by four to five States Parties.

- The “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” adopted by the 10MSP instructs the ISU to propose and present a work plan and budget for the activities of the ISU for the following year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval.
- The “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” also tasks the ISU to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the State Parties, and, to submit an audited annual financial report for the previous year and a preliminary annual financial report for the present year to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval.
- Pursuant to the 11MSP decision that sees that four States Parties in leadership position on each Standing Committee will be reduced to two per Standing Committee, the 12MSP will need to confirm a proposal to appoint five new Co-Chairs. The 12MSP will also need to agree to dates for meetings of the Standing Committees in 2013.
- The 12MSP will need to take decisions on the dates, location and presidency of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

The general format of the programme used at recent Meetings of the States Parties is fitting for the 12MSP. The main features of the proposed programme are as follows:

- Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the 12MSP, 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 points. In addition, if they wish, delegations could distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements. An exception would be made for high level participants.
- Aspects that would assist in a ceremonial opening of the 12MSP (e.g., video presentation, high level addresses by distinguished guests, et cetera) would be incorporated into agenda item #3 (i.e., brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations).
- 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. The matter of reflecting on the Article 5 extension process would be considered immediately after the presentation of extension requests.
- 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. Delegations should aim to avoid duplication with respect to the updates they may have provided during the May Intersessional Work Programme and to focus on challenges encountered in applying the Cartagena Action Plan and on specifying what work remains.

- During the “mine clearance” sub-item as part of the “consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention”, the 12MSP would consider the matter of developing a “rational response” to mined areas discovered after original or extended deadlines to implement Article 5 have expired.
- Matters related to the Implementation Support Unit, the Intersessional Work Programme and Meetings of the States Parties would be dealt with on the afternoon of Thursday 6 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 12MSP Executive Secretary for adoption at the beginning of the 12MSP.
- Working in close cooperation with the Co-Chairs and others, I will proceed in preparing a first draft of the Geneva Progress Report. I will draw extensively on Article 7 transparency reports and the updates provided by States Parties at the May 2012 meetings of the Standing Committees. I may also write to States Parties to request additional information. As well, initial written input from any interested delegation would be welcome by 15 June. I will then aim to distribute a first draft in late August.
- On Monday 3 September from 15:00 to 18:00 in Geneva, I will convene an informal meeting in advance of the 12MSP. 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 12MSP.

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Geneva, 3-7 December 2012  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

### **DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Official opening of the meeting
2. Election of the President
3. Ceremonial opening of the Twelfth Meeting including brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize co-laureates Jody Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations.
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers
6. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting
7. Organization of work
8. General exchange of views<sup>1</sup>
9. Article 5 extension requests and the extension request process
  - (a) Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests
  - (b) Reflecting on the Article 5 extension request process
10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
  - (a) Assisting the victims
  - (b) Clearing mined areas
    - i. National updates on Article 5 implementation
    - ii. Developing a “rational response” to mined areas discovered after original or extended deadlines to implement Article 5 have expired.
  - (c) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines
  - (d) Universalizing the Convention
  - (e) Implementation Support

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<sup>1</sup> Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the Twelfth Meeting, States Parties and observers are encouraged to refrain from making general statements but rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters indicated in agenda item 10. In addition, if they wish, delegations can distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements.

- i. Report on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU and presentation of a work plan and a budget for the 2013 activities of the ISU
- ii. Matters pertaining to the Intersessional Work Programme
- iii. Matters pertaining to Meetings of the States Parties
- iv. Others matters concerning implementation support
- (f) Cooperation and Assistance
- (g) Transparency and the exchange of information
- (h) Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance

11. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

12. Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7

13. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8

14. Date, duration and location of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties, and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting.

15. Any other business

16. Consideration and adoption of the final document

17. Closure of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties

Geneva, 3-7 December 2012  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

### **DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK**

#### **Monday 3 December**

##### **10:00 – 13:00**

1. Official opening of the meeting
2. Election of the President
3. Ceremonial opening of the Twelfth Meeting including brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize co-laureates Jody Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations.
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers
6. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting
7. Organisation of work
8. General exchange of views<sup>2</sup>

##### **15:00 – 18:00**

9. Article 5 extension requests and the extension request process
  - (a) Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests
  - (b) Reflecting on the Article 5 extension request process

#### **Tuesday 4 December**

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<sup>2</sup> Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the Twelfth Meeting, delegations – other than those led by high level representatives – are encouraged to refrain from making general statements. Delegations may rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters indicated in agenda item 10. In addition, if they wish, delegations can distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements.

**10:00 – 13:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

- (a) Assisting the victims

**15:00 – 18:00**

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**Wednesday 5 December**

**10:00 – 13:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

- (b) Clearing mined areas
  - i. National updates on Article 5 implementation

**15:00 – 18:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

- (b) Clearing mined areas
  - i. National updates on Article 5 implementation
  - ii. Developing a “rational response” to mined areas discovered after original or extended deadlines to implement Article 5 have expired.

**Thursday 6 December**

**10:00 – 13:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (c) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines
- (d) Universalizing the Convention

**15:00 – 18:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (e) Implementation support
  - i. Report on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU and presentation of

- a work plan and a budget for the 2013 activities of the ISU
- ii. Matters pertaining to the Intersessional Work Programme
- iii. Matters pertaining to Meetings of the States Parties
- iv. Others matters concerning implementation support
- (f) Cooperation and Assistance

**Friday 7 December**

**10:00 – 13:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

- (f) Cooperation and Assistance
- (g) Transparency and the exchange of information
- (h) Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance

**15:00 – 18:00**

11. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

12. Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7

13. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8

14. Date, duration and location of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties, and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting.

15. Any other business

16. Consideration and adoption of the final document

17. Closure of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties