



**MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES
21-25 MAY 2012**

SMALL GROUP SESSIONS – 24 MAY

BACKGROUND

At the 10MSP, the States Parties requested the Coordinating Committee to allocate time during the week of meetings in 2011 for Co-Chairs and others to experiment with new ways to more intensively focus on national contexts or to otherwise support progress in the application of the Cartagena Action Plan.

The Coordinating Committee in 2011 did so, scheduling three concurrent small group sessions. The Coordinating Committee agreed that these experimental sessions should be based on certain key principles, including:

- that participation would be on a voluntary basis, particularly as concerns States Parties that would be the subject of a national focus,
- that the overarching purpose of each session would be on cooperative means to support implementation, and,
- that there would be no report.

The 11MSP noted the efforts undertaken in 2011 pursuant to the 10MSP decision and encouraged the Coordinating Committee to consider similar efforts in 2012. Pursuant to this decision, the Co-Chairs of three Standing Committees have decided to convene concurrent small group discussions.

	Standing Committee on Mine Clearance Lake Room (3rd floor)	Standing Committee on Victim Assistance Salle C2 (basement)	Standing Committee on Cooperation and Assistance Salle C1 (basement)
11:15	Discussion on assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina in fulfilling commitments contained in its Article 5 extension request	Discussion on assisting Iraq in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan	Discussion on developing a “a platform for partnerships ”
13:00	Break		
14:00	Discussion on assisting Chad in fulfilling commitments contained in its Article 5 extension request	Discussion on assisting the Democratic Republic of the Congo in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan ¹	Discussion on developing a “a platform for partnerships ” (continued)
15:45	Small group sessions end, return to plenary		

¹ This session will take place in French.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINE CLEARANCE

1. Assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina in fulfilling commitments contained in its Article 5 extension request

- Bosnia and Herzegovina's extension request listed various expected results for the extension period. Has Bosnia and Herzegovina achieved these results? What challenges has it encountered? What now is Bosnia and Herzegovina's estimate of what remains to be done?
- In its extension request Bosnia and Herzegovina indicated that it would require an annual average of 79.4 million KM for the period of 2009-2012 with funds coming from the following three funding sources:
 - a. Local government with a new Mine Action Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which would create the conditions for stable and continuous funding of mine action from local government budgets, stimulating maintenance and improvement of donor support.
 - b. Donors
 - c. Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury ensuring shortfall of funds from local budgets.

Has a Mine Action Law been adopted that has created "conditions for the stable and continuous funding" necessary? Have these funding sources been sufficient to meet the budgetary demands of operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

- Bosnia and Herzegovina indicated that the Mine Action Law would create the conditions for the following:
 - a. Establishment of a wider structure for action at the local community level and especially in the areas of planning and prioritization, co funding, reviewing and reporting, as well as participation in mine risk education activities and movement prohibition measures.
 - b. Improvement of the quality assurance system.
 - c. Criminalization of the destruction of mine warning signs.
 - d. Improvement of status for the employees in humanitarian demining operations.

Can Bosnia comment on these issues?

- Bosnia and Herzegovina indicates in its request that its Mine Action Strategy 2009-2019 includes capacity development of survey teams as well as inspection teams aimed to advance quality control in general and that operational plans of Army and Civil Protection would also be implemented as a crucial part of Mine Action Strategy 2009-2019. Can Bosnia and Herzegovina comment on efforts that have been undertaken with respect to these commitments and the results of these efforts?
- Bosnia and Herzegovina indicated that its Mine Action Strategy (2009 – 2019) is the basis to attaining a country without mine impact, with an established safe environment for normal and prosperous life of all citizens, with mine survivors completely integrated in the social community, and, that the first revision of this strategy would take place in 2012. Bosnia and Herzegovina further indicated that standard operating procedures for survey of locations as well as an operational plan would be gradually developed during the first revision of the Strategy in 2012. Has the mine action strategy been revised? If so, what modifications have been made?

- Bosnia and Herzegovina indicated that increased productivity is only possible in case of significant improvements of demining equipment efficiency and that the Mine Action Strategy (2009-2019) would be revised in cases of significant technological improvements. Can Bosnia and Herzegovina indicate if there have been any significant technological improvements in its programme?

2. Assisting Chad in fulfilling commitments contained in its Article 5 extension request

- Chad's extension request indicated that a nationwide technical survey would be conducted in order to gain detailed knowledge of the extent of the remaining contamination. Surveys would first be conducted in the Borkou and Ennedi regions for a year and second in the Tibesti region, funds permitting.

At the 11MSP, Chad indicated that the technical survey had so far covered 4 regions (N'Djamena, Sila, Salamat, Hadjer-Lamis) and most of the suspected areas of 2 other regions (Borkou and Ennedi). 9 of the 22 administrative regions of the country were mine or UXO contaminated and the technical survey should now be implemented in 3 regions, namely Ouaddaï, Tibesti and Wadi Fira. Chad indicated that the results of the first technical survey had been consolidated with the existing data and significant progress had been made on understanding the true extent of the remaining challenge.

- What are the outcomes of the technical survey in the regions where it has been completed? Has Chad gained clarity on the remaining challenge? If not, when does Chad think it will be able to have full clarity?
- Can Chad share information on the process used to reconcile existing data and new data acquired during the conduct of the survey? Has Chad encountered any difficulties?
- What is the situation regarding the Tibesti? Has Chad been able to secure funding to start a technical survey in the Tibesti?
- What is the timeline to implement the remaining survey activities in Ouaddaï, Tibesti and Wadi Fira?
- When does Chad expect the technical survey to be completed?
- In its extension request, Chad indicated that during the extension period and at the same time as the survey activities, demining would continue or start in areas where the presence of anti-personnel mines is known as follows: Eastern Chad (MINURCAT deployment area), Wadi Doum minefield, Northeastern Chad (Fada) and Tibesti.

Chad also indicated that over the course of approximately two years, data collected during the impact survey, the technical survey and demining operations will be verified and the HCND database will be updated. Chad projects to release as much land as possible during the period of the extension, to reduce areas identified by the technical survey as being dangerous, to determine the precise areas remaining to be addressed, to address all contaminated areas that require no more than 24 hours' work and to mark all areas that could not be addressed during this period.

- How is Chad progressing with planned activities in each of these different areas? How many areas have been marked/cleared/released? How many areas and how much area remain to be addressed in each of these areas?
- If any, has Chad encountered any challenges in demining?
- Has Chad been able to create the additional demining section needed to achieve its objective in Wadi Doum?
- Chad indicated in its extension request that the work plan will be reviewed as the technical survey progresses and the strategic proposal will be entirely reviewed at the start of 2012, at which point the final results of the survey will be available. Has Chad's work plan been reviewed? What modifications have been made?
- Chad indicated in its request that the provision of financial support, both national and international, was necessary to fully implement the plan contained in its request. Has financial support (both national and international) been provided to the extent that Chad had envisaged in its extension request?

STANDING COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

1. Assisting Iraq in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan

Planning (action 27)

It has been recognised by the States Parties that a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the rights and needs of mine survivors and the families of those killed or injured requires a national plan of action.

- What progress has been made in Iraq with respect to the development of a national plan of action for persons with disabilities including landmine survivors?
- Has Iraq undertaken a review of existing national plans in relevant areas such as health, education, employment, development, poverty reduction and human rights to identify gaps and/or opportunities to address the rights and needs of victims? If so, what were the findings?
- What next steps are planned to move forward with the establishment of a national action plan?

Coordination (action 24)

It has been recognised by the States Parties that it is essential that a mechanism exists to enhance coordination, collaboration, and cooperation between relevant government ministries, organisations of persons with disabilities, international agencies and non-governmental organisations.

- Has a coordination mechanism been established with responsibility for disability-related issues
- What role does the focal entity for victim assistance related activities play with respect to the coordination mechanism?
- Is this mechanism likely to change when Iraq becomes a State Party to the CRPD?

Data Collection (action 25)

It has been recognised by the States Parties that up-to-date data on casualties, needs of mine victims and other persons with disabilities, capacities and available services are essential in order to use limited resources most effectively to formulate and implement policies, plans and programmes.

- What is the status of the effort in Iraq to undertake a nationwide disability/survivor survey?
- Is there a body within Iraq responsible for coordination with relevant government agencies, national and international organisation as concerns data collection and dissemination?

Access to services (action 31)

It has been recognised by the States Parties that there is a need to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate services for mine victims.

- How is Iraq taking steps to increase access to services throughout the country?
- What challenges have been encountered?

2. Assisting the Democratic Republic of the Congo in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan

Planning (action 27)

It has been recognised by the States Parties that a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the rights and needs of mine survivors and the families of those killed or injured requires a national plan of action.

- What progress has been made by the DRC in implementing its national plan?
- Has a monitoring mechanism been established?
- With the plan due to expire at the end of 2012, has a process been initiated to evaluate and update the plan?

Coordination (action 24)

It has been recognised by the States Parties that it is essential that a mechanism exists to enhance coordination, collaboration, and cooperation between relevant government ministries, organisations of persons with disabilities, international agencies and non-governmental organisations.

- Can the DRC describe the coordination mechanism that has been established to support implementation of the national action plan and comment on its effectiveness?
- What challenges have been encountered and what improvements can be made?
- What were the challenges?
- How are mine survivors and other persons with disabilities involved in the implementation and monitoring of the plan?
- How is United Nations mine action funding being used to build capacity in relevant ministries to ensure sustainability of actions?

Access to services (action 31)

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Developing a platform for partnerships

While financial support is very much needed and appreciated, other types of non-financial assistance (e.g., material, equipment, expertise, etc.) are also essential. The idea was raised of establishing an information exchange tool including these other types of assistance, together with contact details. The Co-Chairs will seek concrete input on the development of such a tool.

- If an information exchange tool were to be established, what information should it contain? How should it be organized?
- What experiences have actors had in accessing information about available funding, technical support, or other forms of cooperation and assistance for implementation?
- What are the gaps in information about available assistance?