



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION**

CO-CHAIRS' NOTES TO MEETING PARTICIPANTS

May 27 and 31, 2002

Introduction:

You will note that since the February 1, 2002 meeting of the Standing Committee, the Co-Chairs have made a few minor changes in order to focus with even greater clarity on achieving the core humanitarian aims of the Convention. One of the changes you will notice is that the week of meetings will begin with a half-day session of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention in order to provide an overview of key areas of implementation; to highlight matters that will be discussed in other Standing Committee meetings; and, to enable all States Parties and others to discuss future enhancements to the Intersessional Programme.

It should be emphasised, though, that the focus placed on the above noted matters on May 27 is not intended to be at the expense of the discussions that have typically taken place at meetings of this Standing Committee. The Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention has always been a valuable informal forum in which, in a spirit of cooperation, States Parties and others have had the opportunity to share information and exchange views on a wide range of matters. It is our desire that this positive practice continues and we hope that the agenda that we have prepared will provide a space for productive dialogue.

What follows is an annotated agenda designed to assist States Parties and others in preparing for the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee. If you wish to seek further information on the agenda, please feel free to contact one of the Co-Chairs.

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Monday, May 27

10:00 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

Overview of the general status of implementation, including on matters related to assistance and cooperation

This agenda item is intended to emphasize that more effective consideration should be given to the totality of matters pertaining to implementation, particularly those areas related most closely to the achievement of the Convention's humanitarian aims. To set the scene for a discussion, the Presidency of the Third Meeting of the States Parties will provide a brief overview of the general status of implementation – including an overview of the status of cooperation and assistance. Following this presentation, Co-Chairs of the other Standing Committees will draw to your attention various elements of their agendas.

Overview of the General Status of Universalization

The challenges associated with universalization are greater now than in the past, but there remains a need to maintain momentum and to work in a steadfast manner. Achieving universal acceptance of the Convention is central to ensuring that the objectives of the

Convention are fulfilled. The facilitator of the Universalization Contact Group will set the scene for a discussion on universalization. This agenda item also provides an opportunity for interventions by States Parties and others involved in universalization efforts. In addition, States not parties to the Convention may wish to provide updates with respect to their efforts to join the Convention.

Report of the Coordinating Committee

At the last meeting of the Standing Committee, it was noted that the Coordinating Committee would begin considering enhancements to the format, timing and work of the Standing Committees. Since February 1st, the Coordinating Committee has deliberated extensively on these matters. The result of these discussions has been, in part, to make minor modifications to the May 27-31 set of meetings. To seek the contributions of all States Parties and others on broader matters related to the Intersessional Work Programme, the report of the Coordinating Committee principally will consist of a discussion on the basis of a non-paper prepared by the Presidency on this matter. (See Document #8.) In addition, should time permit, there will be a report on the activities of the Implementation Support Unit.

13:00 Standing Committee adjourns until May 31

Friday, May 31

09:30 Reconvening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

Report of the Coordinating Committee & Discussion on the Intersessional Programme

If necessary, the Co-Chairs will continue facilitating a discussion on the Intersessional Work Programme and call for the report on the activities of the Implementation Support Unit. As well, if necessary, the Co-Chairs will call upon the facilitator of the Universalization Contact Group to provide a brief update on its most recent meeting.

In addition, in keeping with past practice, the Co-Chairs will provide an update on their consultations to nominate new Co-Rapporteurs.

Discussions on matters related to Article 7

This agenda item is designed to take stock of reporting under Article 7. The Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group will provide an update on the status of reporting. In addition, it is intended that on the basis of a non-paper (see Document #9) prepared by the Coordinator of the Contact Group there will be a discussion on a variety of matters related to Article 7 reporting.

Update on implementation of Article 9 and Article 3

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide States Parties with an opportunity to share updates on legal, administrative and other measures taken in accordance with Article 9. Should there be updates from States Parties regarding implementation of Article 3, this would also be the opportunity to share information.

Experiences in implementing Article 2

At the February 1, 2002 meeting of the Standing Committee, the Co-Chairs recalled the attention that matters related to Article 2 have received over the past year. With a view to continuing a dialogue on these matters, as is suggested by the President's Action Programme, this agenda item has been scheduled to provide States Parties with an opportunity to share, how in legal and / or operational terms, Article 2 of the Convention is being implemented.

Addressing the humanitarian impact of mines that may pose similar risks to civilian populations as anti-personnel mines.

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for States Parties to share steps taken, and to discuss possible approaches including best practices, to reduce the humanitarian impact of mines that may pose similar risks to civilian populations as anti-personnel mines.

13:00 Break for lunch

15:00 Preparations for the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties

Preparations for the upcoming Meeting of the States Parties have traditionally been discussed during meetings of this Standing Committee. In continuing this practice, the Co-Chairs will call upon the President-Nominee to make remarks about the status of preparations for the Fourth Meeting (4MSP). In addition, further to the February 1 agreement that Switzerland be designated as the Secretary General of the 4MSP, the Secretary-General-designate will be asked to provide an update on the opening ceremonies and side events. As well, there will be an opportunity for States Parties to discuss revised draft cost estimates for the 4MSP.

Experiences in implementing Article 1

At the February 1, 2002 meeting of the Standing Committee, the Co-Chairs referred to the President's Action Programme, which suggested further discussions of States Parties on matters pertaining to Article 1. Thus, this agenda item has been scheduled to provide an opportunity for States Parties to share, how in operational terms, Article 1 of the Convention is being implemented.

Update on the dialogue related to the facilitation and clarification of compliance

The purpose of this agenda item is to receive updates on discussions that have taken place since the presentation of the Canadian non-paper.

Matters pertaining to compliance concerns

Further to the spirit of cooperation that prevailed during the February 1, 2002 discussions on matters pertaining to compliance concerns, a further opportunity for dialogue has been scheduled.

Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs, Presidency and the Director of the GICHD

18:00 Meeting ends.