

Information from the Argentine Republic and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

Meeting of the Standing Committees of the Convention, Article 5 obligations

Geneva, May 8th – 12th 2006

On 11 October 2001, the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed an Exchange of Notes Agreement under the sovereignty formula, whereby they undertook to carry out a Feasibility Study on the clearance of landmines in the Falkland Islands.

This study will assess the costs and risks of each of the options considered technically feasible, and will include a cost-benefit analysis of the clearance activities, establishing an order of preference among the options.

The study is to be carried out by both Governments by means of a Joint Argentine-British Working Party.

Details on the Feasibility Study and progress achieved by the Joint Working Party were given at the last meeting of the Standing Committees (Geneva, June 2005) and updated at the Sixth Meeting of States Party to the Convention (Zagreb, December, 2005)¹.

Since the last Meeting of the Standing Committees (June, 2005) the Joint Working Party has held four Meetings. At the first of those meetings, the Fourth Meeting overall, both delegations confirmed that they had arranged for sufficient funds to be available throughout the current calendar year to meet the estimated costs of the Feasibility Study. At the Fifth Meeting, and following the

recommended measures of the Nairobi Plan of Action, both parties agreed to use the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) as the base to achieve the International Standards for Mine Action (IMAS) requirements, in accordance with the Exchange of Notes of 2001.

At the Sixth Meeting both delegations continued to make progress on financial, legal and technical aspects of the Feasibility Study and to move forward on several tasks ahead of the Seventh Meeting. They also agreed to recommend to the two Governments that they should extend the scope of the Exchange of Notes of 2001 under the sovereignty formula, through the conclusion of an agreement to include Unexploded Ordnance that might remain inside the mine fields.

At the Seventh Meeting and last meeting to date of the Joint Working Party, held in Buenos Aires in March this year, both delegations continued to negotiate a way forward on the legal and technical aspects of the Feasibility Study aiming to complete a joint survey visit to the Falkland Islands during the austral summer of 2006/2007. Both delegations agreed to work intersessionally on the contractual aspects of the study and a draft statement of requirements.

The next and Eighth Meeting of the Joint Working Party is due to take place in London next week on 17-19 May.

¹ Document APLC/MSP.6/MISC.2