
**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

1 December 2010

Original: English

Tenth Meeting
Geneva, 29 November – 3 December 2010
Item 10 of the agenda
**Enhancing international cooperation
and assistance in the context of the Convention**

Proposal
**Establishment of a Standing Committee on Resources,
Cooperation and Assistance**

Submitted by Zambia

Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to further elaborate a proposal made by Zambia during the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention in Cartagena, Colombia in December 2009; a proposal that was raised initially during the preparatory committee meeting for the Review Conference in September 2009 and addressed again during the Special Session on International Cooperation and Assistance at the Intersessional Meeting of Standing Committees in Geneva, in June 2010.

Proposal

2. Zambia has proposed that the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty establish a new Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance in order to exchange information and develop plans and strategies to ensure:

(a) adequate and predictable levels of human, technical and financial support for mine action from affected States and the donor community (resource mobilization); and

(b) the efficient and effective use of resources (resource utilization).

3. It is further proposed that:

(a) the 10th MSP agree that the first meeting of the new Standing Committee shall be held during the Intersessional Meetings in 2011;

(b) that this first meeting focus on the further development of the general terms of reference for the new Standing Committee; work that can be carried forward as necessary by the Co-Chair(s) and Co-Rapporteur(s) who would be elected at the 11th Meeting of States Parties.

Background

4. The “action” in ‘Mine Action’ is made possible only through the provision of adequate human, technical and financial resources to support the implementation of all elements of the Mine Ban Convention, particularly: mine clearance, stockpile destruction and victim assistance.

5. Although affected States and donors have been reasonably successful in generating funds and other resources over the 11 years that the Convention has been in force, there have never been sufficient resources to meet many of the priority needs of affected States. Moreover, there is reason to believe that, unless concerted action is taken, even current levels of support from affected and donor States may be difficult to maintain over the longer term.

Rationale

6. The introduction of a Standing Committee would be a way of ensuring that adequate time and attention is devoted to this critically important issue in the wider meeting so that all delegations can participate and benefit.

7. In addition to promoting greater investment in mine action by affected States and traditional donors, it will be an effective venue to advance greater south-south cooperation as well.

8. Considerations:

(a) *Landmine Monitor* reports that, although global funding levels have held steady over the past few years, last year this was due to unusually strong support from a small number of donors, which off-set a dramatic drop in mine action funding by several other States;

(b) There is increasing competition for limited resources, particularly in light of the recent global recession and the myriad priorities of the international community;

(c) Many Mine Ban Convention States Parties have or are planning to assume similar legal obligations with respect to the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*. Several donor States have advised that this will not necessarily result in any increase in funding;

(d) The resources issue is not new. Indeed, it has been a matter of great interest within the mine action community for many years. In addition to *ad hoc* discussion in plenary during Meetings of States Parties and Meetings of Standing Committees, Norway has for many years coordinated a Contact Group focussed initially on resource mobilization and more recently on resource utilization. In 2006, Canada established a Contact Group on Linking Mine Action and Development (LMAD) which, among other things, has explored ways to create greater cooperation between the mine action and development communities and better access funding from traditional development donors in order to advance mine action and development. Although there have been many excellent presentations and discussions in both Contact Groups, because meetings are held during lunch breaks, usually at the same time as several other events attendance has been poor. Coverage has been a particular problem for small delegations, often from mine affected countries;

(e) Canada has indicated that it would be pleased to fold the work of LMAD into a Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance in order that all States can engage on this issue.

Caveat

9. Meetings of this Standing Committee would not be 'pledging sessions'. Nor would this be the venue where affected States inform the community of their resource requirements. There are many other formal and informal opportunities to do this. Rather, the focus will clearly be on the generation of resources by both affected and donor States and the efficient and effective utilization of resources, with a view to maximizing the humanitarian and development impact of our work.

Conclusion

10. Ultimately, it is not our words, but our collective actions that will eliminate the threat to life and limbs posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

11. Zambia would be most grateful for the strong support of this proposal by all States Parties, UN agencies, international organizations and civil society.
