

12MSP



Informal meeting to discuss preparations for the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP)

Monday 3 September – 10:00-13:00
Palais des Nations
Room V, A building, 2nd floor

Agenda

1. Review of the 12MSP programme

At the 21 May meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the President-Designate presented a draft agenda and programme to the States Parties. The Co-Chairs concluded that this programme was generally acceptable to the States Parties.

2. Actions for consideration by the States Parties at the 12MSP

a. Comments on the draft *Geneva Progress Report 2011-2012*

In May, the President-Designate informed the States Parties that, in keeping with past practice, he will produce a progress report covering the period between the 11MSP and the 12MSP. He noted that the States Parties have the opportunity to conduct a mid-term assessment of their efforts to implement the Cartagena Action Plan, recording in a progress report challenges that have been encountered and the work that remains in meeting Cartagena Action Plan commitments. On 2 August, the President-Designate distributed a draft progress report.

b. Update on Article 5 extension requests

The 12MSP will need to consider requests for mine clearance extensions that have been submitted by Afghanistan, Angola, Cyprus and Zimbabwe. The 11MSP President and the Co-Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees have been mandated to analyse these requests with a view to the analysis process being complete by the end of September.

c. Update on reflecting on the Article 5 extension request process

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. In this context, the 11MSP recommended that those States Parties mandated to analyse requests in 2012 reflect on the process to date with a view to identifying efficient

President-Designate of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties
c/o Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

methods to ensure that high quality requests and analyses are prepared and with a view to recommendations on this matter being submitted for consideration at the 12MSP.

- d. Update on developing a rational response to mined areas discovered after the expiry of a State Party's Article 5 deadline

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. At the 22 May meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, the Co-Chairs put forward a suggested course of action and a variety of views were expressed.

- e. Update on dates for meetings in 2013

It is proposed that meetings of the Standing Committees in 2013 take place the week of 27 to 31 May with the length of individual meetings and their sequencing, and duration of the entire period of meetings to be established by the Coordinating Committee. It is proposed that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) take place in [...] [the week of 25-29 November or the week of 2-6 December].

- f. Appointment of new Co-Chairs

In keeping with established tradition, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention (Norway and Peru) undertook the task this year of consulting with States Parties to identify a list of nominees to serve as new Co-Chairs following the 12MSP. On 2 May 2012, the Co-Chairs wrote to all States Parties to indicate that they were seeking one new State Party for each of the five Standing Committees for two year terms. At the 21 May 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Co-Chairs again reminded delegations of their written appeal.

Based upon interest expressed, Norway and Peru are proposing that the following States Parties serve as Co-Chairs from the end of the 12MSP for a two-year term:

- General Status and Operation of the Convention: New Zealand
- Victim Assistance: Austria
- Mine Clearance: Mozambique
- Resources, Cooperation and Assistance: Ecuador
- Stockpile Destruction: Norway

If this proposal is agreed to by the 12MSP, the above mentioned States Parties would join the following which, in accordance with the decisions of the 10MSP and 11MSP, would be completing the second year of their two year terms between the end of the 12MSP and the end of the 13MSP:

- Status and Operation of the Convention: Bulgaria
- Victim Assistance: Colombia
- Mine Clearance: The Netherlands
- Resources, Cooperation and Assistance: Thailand
- Stockpile Destruction: Nigeria

g. Reminder on reflecting on the organization of the annual Meeting of the States Parties

The 11MSP took note of 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, and decided that the Coordinating Committee brainstorm on this theme in the first half of 2012 and that the May 2012 intersessional meetings discuss and submit, through the President, recommendations to the 12MSP in this regard. The 11MSP further noted that, should any action be taken by the 12MSP on this basis, it would lead to appropriate adjustments to the organisation of the MSP effective as from the Thirteenth Meeting.

At the 25 May meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the 11MSP Presidency presented a paper summarising the Coordinating Committee's brainstorming on this matter. In this paper, the Coordinating Committee, while seeing no need to recommend changes regarding how Meetings of the States Parties are organised, noted the importance of periodically assessing how the Convention's formal and informal meetings are supporting the implementation process to the greatest extent possible. The Coordinating Committee also concluded that consideration of the issue of overlaps between the different conventional weapons instruments remains sensible (further to 10MSP decisions on this matter), and further discussions are needed to explore the appropriate framework to deal with it given the principles of independence and non-interference between international instruments.

h. Reminder regarding the ISU 2013 workplan and budget and the ISU report

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 (MSP) for approval. The "Directive" also tasks the ISU to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each MSP, 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 MSP for approval.

i. Other possible actions

3. Updates on organizational matters

The host country, the 12MSP Executive Secretary (UNODA) and the ISU will provide a variety of updates on matters such as the opening ceremony, registration and side events.

4. Any other business