
**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**

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Item 2 (d) of the provisional agenda

**Operation and status of the Convention. Presentation, reporting,
discussion and decision with regard to: Conclusions and recommendations
related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance**

**Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee on the
Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance¹**

**Submitted by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and
Assistance (Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and Switzerland)**

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”), is to assist the States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), in line with their reaffirmation that ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines is a shared commitment.

2. The Committee is mandated to:

(a) Promote cooperation and assistance under the Convention, including by organizing or encouraging the organization of multilateral, regional or national dialogues on cooperation and assistance, in Geneva or elsewhere;

(b) Facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance, including through the use of information exchange tools (e.g. “Platform for Partnerships”);

(c) Coordinate with other implementation mechanisms established by the States Parties in order to facilitate and accelerate the full implementation of the Convention;

(d) Present preliminary observations at intersessional meetings if need be, and conclusions and recommendations, if relevant, at Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences.

¹ Late submission.



3. The Committee is also mandated to remain transparent and accountable, including by reporting on activities at both Intersessional Meetings and Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences.

II. Membership

4. As agreed at the Third Review Conference, the Committee is composed of a representative group of four States Parties serving overlapping two-year terms, including an affected State Party and a State Party that is a provider of support or assistance.

5. Each year, the Committee will select a chair among the States Parties serving the second year of their two-year terms. The Chair will be responsible for convening and chairing meetings, issuing communications on behalf of the Committee and directing the Implementation Support Unit to assist the work of the Committee.

6. Based on the agreed arrangement of membership, the Third Review Conference elected Colombia and Indonesia as members of the until the end of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, as well as Mexico and Switzerland as members of the Committee until the end of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

III. Working Method

7. The Third Review Conference emphasized that the new implementation machinery, including the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance do not have decision making authority. Such authority remains with all States Parties at Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences. It was further affirmed that States Parties selected to the positions will be accountable to the States Parties including by keeping the States Parties apprised of the activities. The new implementation machinery also does not incur mandatory cost to the States Parties for the functioning of these mechanisms.

8. The Committee's work is based on an existing body of knowledge of the States Parties' cooperation, as well as various funding mechanisms. The Committee's work is guided by Action #19 – Action #24 of the 2014-2019 Maputo Action Plan. Furthermore, the Committee may also draw on the expert inputs from relevant organizations, including from the ICBL and ICRC.

9. In executing its work, the Committee continuously draws upon the administrative and technical support provided by the ISU. To guide its work, the Committee drafted and agreed a work plan for the period of 2014-2015 based on three goals and objectives:

(a) To promote partnerships between States Parties with needs and States Parties in a position to assist;

(b) To assist affected States Parties in enhancing their prospects for attracting assistance and donor States Parties in providing assistance; and

(c) To collaborate with others beyond the Convention with a view to multiplying the effect of cooperation and assistance efforts carried out under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

IV. Activities of the Committee

10. Based on its work plan and in accordance with the above mentioned working method, the Committee has carried out the following activities:

Meeting with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines

11. With a view to acquire better information on the challenges faced by mine affected States, the Committee met with Ms. Tamar Gabelnick and Ms. Amelie Chayer from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) on 27 November 2014. The ICBL has provided the Committee with a priority list of affected States Parties that they consider need to be approached in terms of mine clearance, victim assistance, and stockpile destruction. The ICBL further provided an overview of observations on the challenges faced by States Parties in implementing core objectives of the Convention.

Meeting with other committees under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

12. To have a better understanding of the challenges faced by affected States Parties with respect to mine clearance and victim assistance, the Committee met with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the Committee on Victim Assistance on 1 December 2014. Through discussions with the Committees, the Committee learned that 31 States Parties are still in process of implementing Article 5 and 29 States Parties have a large number of mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control. Since the work of the Convention's Committees is still at an early stage, more information will be needed particularly on the assistance needs required by affected States Parties. The efforts of other Committees to promote the full exchange of information in accordance with the Maputo Action Plan could highlight significant opportunities to enhance cooperation under the Convention.

Meetings with demining organizations

13. The Committee met with three demining organizations, namely The HALO Trust, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and Mines Advisory Group (MAG). The Committee, together with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, met with Mr. Calvin Ruysen, Southern Africa Desk Officer from The HALO Trust. Mr. Ruysen shared with both Committees his organization's mine clearance experiences in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. During the meeting it was revealed that, despite being one of the world's most heavily mined countries, and having achieved progress, funding to The HALO Trust has been in decline since 2008.

14. Together with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Committee met with representatives of NPA on 17 February 2015. NPA highlighted that challenges in implementing the Convention have evolved and that 2015-2020 is the era of partnership. While much progress has been achieved, significant challenges remain. Cooperation and assistance needs to adapt and focus on these challenges. During the meeting, NPA indicated a number of countries that are in need of more support in order to build capacity including Sri Lanka, Mozambique, South Sudan and Somalia. NPA also identified a number of countries that require support in dealing with residual contamination issues including Malawi, Zambia and Guinea-Bissau.

15. On 18 February 2015, the Committee, together with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, met with Mr. Chris Loughran, Director of Policy of the MAG. Mr. Loughran revealed that there has been a reduction of international funding to mine clearance efforts and that one of the biggest challenges has been to ensure consistent funding to affected States.

Meeting with mine affected States Parties

16. On 17 February 2015, the Committee met with representatives of the National Mine Action Authority and Mine Action Centre of Zimbabwe. During the meeting Zimbabwe provided the Committee with information on the landmine challenges faced by Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe indicated to the Committee that in order to address its landmine challenges, it requires additional financial resources, capacity building support for its demining squadron, and assistance from mine clearance operators such as the HALO Trust and NPA to channel funding for clearance.

17. On 18 February 2015, the Committee met with representatives of the National Mine Action Centre of Sudan that described the challenges Sudan faces in its mine clearance efforts including lack of funding, natural phenomenon such as floods and heavy rain, and at the time of the meeting, absence of international organizations and support such as from UNMAS in Sudan. Sudan requested the Committee to speak to UNMAS on their behalf to reengage in Sudan in support of their mine clearance efforts.

Meeting with leading donors in Mine Action

18. On 19 February 2015, the Committee invited donor States in mine action to discuss one of the main themes of the Maputo Review conference, that of establishing “partnerships for completion”. Some of the leading donors in mine action including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, the European Union, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America attended. It was considered that some of these donors are in a position to enter into bilateral multi-year partnership agreements with mine-affected States.

19. The meeting discussed a number of opportunities and challenges concerning partnership. Having identified the need for both donors and affected States to play their part in fostering partnerships, participants discussed the following key issues, amongst others:

(a) The need for affected States Parties to establish good practices in national ownership at national and subnational levels;

(b) The importance of enhancing coordination among donors and national mine action authorities of affected States Parties through increased interaction and communication;

(c) The importance of affected States providing clear information concerning the challenges faced, as they know best their context and particular circumstances.

20. The Committee recognized the importance of continuing with this dialogue and efforts to establish real partnerships in support of States Parties in meeting their Convention obligations. The Committee also recognized the importance of considering alternative funding channels such as private sector contributions in some countries and remained open to exploring this issue in the future.

Thematic discussion on Fostering Partnerships during the intersessional meeting in June 2015

21. With a view to gain greater understanding and clarity on how States Parties can enter into “partnerships for completion”, and based on the Committee’s mandate to facilitate the fostering of partnerships, the Committee, together with the ISU, organized a thematic discussion at the intersessional meeting of the Convention on 25 June 2015. The thematic discussion was moderated by the Director of the ISU and consisted of two panels featuring prominent resource persons from the Netherlands as a donor State, Jordan as a recipient State of Article 5 implementation assistance, NPA and UNDP. An expert from the Colombian Mine Action Authority, DAICMA, presented an example of a partnership established by that agency with ECOPETROL in support of the implementation of the Convention.

22. The thematic discussion revolved around the questions regarding partnerships. The definition of partnerships, expected results from partnership, mechanisms of partnership

and ways to strengthen partnership were among the questions addressed during the thematic discussion.

23. The need to find new forms of partnership, the significance of national ownership in the fulfilment of the Convention's legal obligations and the importance of the Platform for Partnerships were among the several pertinent points that emerged from the discussion.

Meeting with UNMAS

24. On 2 October 2015, the Committee met with Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Geneva Office and Ms. Marie Lindblad, of UNMAS. This meeting was held in follow-up to the meeting in February between the Committee and Sudan, during which Sudan requested the Committee to approach UNMAS and request them to reengage in mine action in Sudan. Mr. Donat stated during the meeting that in April 2015 UNMAS, upon the request of Sudan, began to provide capacity building support to Sudan. UNMAS is actively reaching out to donors in order to fill the existing gap in funding for its operation in Sudan. UNMAS is currently focusing on enhancing Sudan's national capacity in terms of mine clearance operations.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

25. The Committee concluded that international cooperation and assistance is an essential part of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and represents a commitment shared by all States Parties to ensure the Convention's full implementation as enshrined in Article 6 of the Convention.

26. The Committee concluded that progress in cooperation and assistance has been made since it was recently defined at the Second Review Conference held in Cartagena in 2009. The establishment of the Platform for Partnership in 2012 is a positive development in this regard serving as an information exchange tool that could better facilitate exchange of information on the type of assistance offered by States and the support needed by mines-affected States.

27. The Committee concluded that the Maputo Declaration is a testament to the importance given by the States Parties to maintaining the Convention's unique and strong spirit of cooperation and that it is essential to overcome the remaining challenges. The Maputo Action Plan also emphasized that the Convention's shared goals can be advanced through enhanced cooperation.

28. The Committee concluded that stronger partnerships, collaboration and coordination between affected States, non-affected States, international organizations, and civil society organizations will minimize and eventually end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

29. The Committee concluded that in order to realize the ambition of the Maputo Review Conference, the traditional forms of cooperation between donor States and mine affected States need to be complemented by new forms of cooperation including triangular cooperation, South-South cooperation, and public-private partnerships.

30. The Committee concluded that strong and sustained commitments from leading donor countries such as Australia, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America is critical for building partnerships and implementing the Convention

31. The Committee concluded that, given that resources to assist mine affected States are not unlimited, resources need to be used more efficiently and channelled on the basis of requests and the specific needs of the mine affected States.

32. Partnerships are envisaged mostly as a bilateral effort between an affected State Party and a donor State based on clear information and detailed mine action plans made available by affected States Parties. In this context a multi-annual strategy is a valued tool.

33. The Committee concluded that insufficient, unpredictable and ad hoc financial support in mine action might affect States Parties' efforts to fulfil their obligations under the Convention, particularly in the conduct of mine clearance operations, stockpile destruction and victim assistance. Clarity and transparency in exchanging information between affected States Parties and donors is essential to maximize the impact of cooperation and assistance efforts.

34. On the basis of its conclusions, the Committee intends to remain seized of these matters with a view to continuing to enhance cooperation and assistance within the framework of the Convention, and recommends that:

(a) States Parties intensify bilateral cooperation efforts, among other aspects, by enhancing the quality of the information provided by both sides;

(b) States Parties intensify regional and international cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, South-South cooperation, public-private partnerships and by sharing national experiences, best practices, resources, and technology to implement the Convention;

(c) States Parties make use of the Platform for Partnership. States Parties in a position to render cooperation and assistance are urged to provide information to the Platform for Partnerships;

(d) States Parties identify ways to increase the efficiency of international assistance projects (e.g. through better use of existing tools, improved donor-operator-recipient coordination);

(e) States Parties increase their understanding of how to enable local/national authorities to more rapidly assume the responsibility in mine-action to make better use of limited available assistance;

(f) States Parties make use of the chapter on Cooperation and Assistance included in the Guide to Reporting.
