

## **Report of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance**

### Introduction

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, we would like to present the conclusion and recommendations of the Committee. The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance is composed of Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and Switzerland. The purpose of the Committee is to assist States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6, and guided by the Maputo Action Plan.

At the beginning of its work, the Committee has drafted a work plan for 2014-2015 period, with three main goals:

- (i) to promote partnerships between States Parties with needs and States Parties in a position to assist;
- (ii) to assist affected States Parties in enhancing their prospects for attracting assistance and donor States Parties in providing assistance; and
- (iii) 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.

### Activities

Based on the work plan, the Committee has carried out 8 activities, as follows:

#### **1. Meeting with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines**

With a view to acquire better information on the challenges faced by mine affected States, the Committee met with International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) on 27 November 2014. The ICBL provided the Committee with a priority list of affected States Parties that need to be approached in terms of mine clearance, victim assistance, and stockpile destruction.

#### **2. Meeting with Other Committees under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

The Committee met with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the Committee on Victim Assistance on 1 December 2014 to have a better understanding of the challenges faced by affected States Parties with respect to mine clearance and victim assistance. 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.

#### **3. Meetings with Demining Organizations**

The Committee met with three demining organizations, namely HALO Trust, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and Mines Advisory Group.

Representative of HALO Trust shared his organization's mine clearance experiences in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and also the problems faced by HALO trust with respect to funding issues on its work in these three countries.

The Norwegian People's Aid highlighted that 2015-2020 is the era of partnership. The NPA also highlighted the fact that the challenges in implementation of the Convention have evolved and therefore cooperation and assistance needs to adapt.

Together with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance met with representative of the Mines Advisory Group. During the meeting, it was revealed that there has been reduction of international funding to mine clearance efforts.

#### **4. Meeting with Mine Affected States Parties**

The Committee met with representatives of the National Mine Action Authority and Mine Action Centre of Zimbabwe, during which the representatives provided the Committee with information on the landmine challenges faced by Zimbabwe.

the Committee also met with the 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 that from UNMAS in Sudan.

#### **5. Meeting with Leading Donors in Mine Action**

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". In attendance were some of the leading donors in mine action, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Japan, Netherlands, the European Union, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America. It was considered that some of these donors are in a position to enter into bilateral multi-year partnership agreements with mine-affected States.

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 to enhance coordination among donors and national mine action authorities of affected States Parties through increased interaction and communication;
- c. The importance of clear information concerning the challenges faced by affected States Parties as they know best their context and particular circumstances.

**6. Thematic discussion on Fostering Partnerships during the Intersessional meeting in June 2015**

together with the ISU, the Committee organized thematic discussion at the intersessional meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban 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 Article V implementation assistance recipient State, Norwegian People's Aid 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.

**7. Meeting with UNMAS**

On 2 October 2015 the Committee held a meeting with representatives of UNMAS to learn about UNMAS mine action in Sudan. Representatives of UNMAS stated that they are currently providing capacity building support to Sudan and actively reaching out to donors in order to fill the existing gap in funding for its operation in Sudan. The Committee learns that UNMAS is currently focusing on enhancing Sudan's national capacity in terms of mine clearance operations.

8. Last but not least, Mr. President, yesterday, on 1 December 2015, with the assistance of the ISU, the Committee held an informal discussion on cooperation and assistance. This event was held with a view to identify potential avenues with a view to strengthen partnerships, and receive insights into this aspect of the Convention for the development of the Committee's work plan for 2016. The meeting was attended by both donor countries and affected countries who contributed actively.

Conclusions

Based on the work done, the Committee draws the following conclusions:

1. 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.
2. Progress in cooperation and assistance has been made since it was recently defined at the 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.
3. Maputo Declaration is a testament to the importance given by the States Parties to maintaining the Convention's unique strong spirit of cooperation 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.

4. Stronger partnership, 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.
5. 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 partnership.
6. Strong and sustained commitment from leading donor countries such as Australia, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
7. Given that resources to assist mine affected States are not unlimited, the resources need to be used more efficiently and channelled on the basis of requests and needs of the mine affected States. Partnerships are envisaged mostly as a bilateral effort between an affected State Party and a donor State based on information and mine action plans made available by affected States parties. In this context, a multi-annual strategy is a valued tool.
8. Insufficient, unpredictable and ad hoc financial support in mine action might affect States Parties' efforts in fulfilling their obligations to the Convention, particularly in the conduct of mine clearance operations, stockpile destruction and victim assistance. Clarity and transparency in exchanging of information between affected States Parties and donors, is essential to maximize the impact of cooperation and assistance efforts.

#### Recommendations

Based on these conclusions, the Committee proposes the following recommendations:

1. States Parties intensify bilateral cooperation efforts, among other aspects, by enhancing the quality of the information provided by both sides;
2. States Parties intensify regional and international cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, South-South cooperation, public-private partnership and by sharing national experiences, best practices, resources, and technology to implement the Convention;
3. 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 Partnership;
4. 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);
5. States Parties increase their understanding on how to enable local/national authorities to more rapidly assume the responsibility in mine-action to make better use of limited available assistance;

6. States Parties make use of the chapter on Cooperation and Assistance included in the Guide to reporting.