



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE CHILE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Y OTRAS ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES EN GINEBRA

PRIORITIES OF CHILE DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

03 December 2015

INTRODUCTION

The 162 States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention share as a common factor the profound belief that this Convention is one of the highest exponents of multilateralism based on the protection of the Human Being. For Chile, additionally, this Convention is a sterling example of the paradigm of Human Security.

Around one third of the countries of the world are, in one way or the other, contaminated by landmines and unexploded ordnances. The most affected by this silent threat are the least developed where approximately 30.000 people a year, mostly women and children, die due to these weapons. In this connection, all States Parties aspire to meet the convention's goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

Chile`s commitment with this Convention is a State policy that will be strengthened in assuming the Presidency in 2016. In this period, we have the intention to strengthen the Ottawa Convention program of work, to revitalize the commitment of all stakeholders and to universalize its application.

I. STRENGTHENING THE WORK PLAN (2016-2019) AND THE PLEDGING CONFERENCE.

As part of the Group of Friends of the Presidency, Chile contributed to designing a four-year work plan aimed at providing direction and stability to the works of the Convention. The result is the 2016-2019 Work Plan and Budget (WPB) to be presented for approval to the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (MSP).



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In 2016 we must keep strict observance of the implementation of the WPB, in order to ensure that the Implementation Support Unit is effective in its support to States Parties in the fulfillment of our obligations and that we collectively ensure the necessary resources for it to carry out its functions. The Presidency and the Coordination Committee must ensure that this Plan continues to be relevant and that it is strictly monitored.

Chile, in its effort to ensure the operations of the ISU, will organize a **pledging conference** (Wednesday 2 March, 15:00, room XXV) where, in addition to generating funds for the smooth functioning of the ISU and, if possible, enhancing support of areas and countries in need, we intend to revitalize the initial enthusiasm of all stakeholders with our emblematic Convention.

II. PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Under Chile's Presidency we wish to create an Informal Standing Committee of specialists of both the Ottawa and Oslo Convention, to work in Victim Assistance (VA), a top priority for Chile.

This Committee aims to define the most effective and efficient way to provide technical support for the reintegration (political, social and economic) of affected people to ensure that they are able to exercise their human rights on an equal basis with others in their communities. Whereas there are, 28 States that have indicated responsibility for high number of landmine victims, we would expect the Committee to create the first necessary cooperation links for joint work, focused on human rights and full integration of victims, and generate, for example, guidelines for States. This Informal Standing Committee will have a focus on different areas of the mandate of the Victim Assistance Committees of the relevant treaties and is envisaged as a complement to their efforts. In fact, the participation of the relevant Victim Assistance Committees is seen as integral to the efforts of the Informal Standing Committee.

Often we see political will for compliance on victim assistance but few resources for this purpose. In this context, international cooperation is key to achieve at least some balance among the affected States in terms, among others, of medical attention programs.

In principle, we propose that the Informal Standing Committee be composed of:



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The presidencies of Ottawa and Oslo Conventions and the Directors of their relevant Implementation Support Units; the Coordinators of Victim Assistance and International cooperation of both Conventions; OHCHR; Representative of the Committee of persons with disabilities; Special Rapporteur of persons with disabilities; ILO; UNICEF; WHO; UNWOMAN; ICRC; CMC-ICBL; HANDICAP International.

2. STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

As we can appreciate from the President's report to the 14MSP, stockpile destruction is an ongoing effort that will require follow-up with these States Parties to ensure that clarity is obtained on the status of their operations to destroy remaining stockpiles and to see where assistance is required in facing any challenge that may arise in meeting their obligations. Among those, as we have seen in the past, States Parties may locate additional stockpiles which must then be destroyed.

Chile would like to ensure that States with stockpiles are supported by the ISU. This support may come in the form of linking States with the technical or financial support they require to complete their Article 4 obligations or to destroy newly found stockpiles.

3. COMPLIANCE

The purpose of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance is to assist the States Parties in acting upon their commitment under Article 8.1 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance in a supportive and amicable manner. After one year of work, we see the need of:

- a) Preparation of a model questionnaire to guide the Committee in its investigation and to ensure that the Committee receives all the information needed from the State. This would also ensure that the State is clear on the type of information required where compliance with the Convention has been credibly breached.
- b) Preparation of internal rules of procedure for the functioning of the Committee.
- c) Likewise, it is important to keep up with the status of national legislation of States Parties as it is an important obligation under Article 9 to ensure that there are legal national



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implementation measures in place to implement the Convention. Another important issue of this task would be to further develop the archive of each case and ensure that it is available, including on the Convention's webpage.

4. MINE CLEARANCE

There are currently 30 States Parties in the Process of implementing Article 5 of the Convention. Chile sees the advancement and completion of Article 5 obligations by States Parties as essential to its presidency. We have together set a goal of achieving this by 2025. While we know in many cases that this goal may not be achievable by some States, in many other cases, this is a goal that can be reached by 2025 and even before this date. This will require strong collaboration between partners to reach our collective goals.

Chile looks forward to working with the Committee of Article 5 Implementation and the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, as well as with affected States, to see how affected states' outstanding needs to reach completion can be acquired.

III. SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS

1. COMMUNICATION AND UNIVERSALIZATION

Chile believes it is crucial to strengthen dissemination of the valuable work carried out under this Convention. We believe that this will contribute to the political commitment to the instrument, as well as to its universalization.

To this end, the ISU will have as one of its objectives to design and carry out a permanent communication and dissemination plan through all media, including mass media and social networks, on the advances of this Convention.

2. TRIANGULAR AND SOUTH - SOUTH COOPERATION

The development of national legislation on Victim Assistance and the destruction of stocks and mine clearance need international cooperation in many cases. New networks of cooperation that can be created among countries with similar capabilities and challenges can be long-lasting and efficient. We need to strengthen them.



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Chile, as well as other States Parties, has a wealth of knowledge and support to offer. In the case of Chile the training of deminers is one area in which we can provide support to other States Parties.

CONCLUSION

Some aspects of the States Parties' implementation architecture have been through challenging times. We believe now is the time to put to work the ideas and the plans that we have developed with the lessons we have learned one year since our Third Review Conference. This is not the time to give up, or to pause our efforts, but to strengthen and redouble them to get to the finish line. A Task Force to identify ways and means of revitalizing the Convention may be created.