

Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties to
the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
16 – 20 November 2020



Ending the suffering and casualties
caused by anti-personnel mines

16-20 NOVEMBER 2020
GENEVA



The Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) is the formal, diplomatic meeting of the 164 States that have accepted to be bound by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The Convention covers over 80% of the world's States including most that at one time used, stockpiled, produced or transferred anti-personnel mines, and are or have been affected by anti-personnel mines. Several States that are not party to the Convention will be attending as Observers. The 18MSP will be presided by Sudan and hosted by Switzerland.

The 18MSP will be the first formal Meeting to review progress made by States Parties in implementing the newly adopted Oslo Action Plan and its 50 Actions. The meeting will also take stock of States Parties' efforts to meet the Convention's goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

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1 Week at a Glance (16-20 November 2020)

MONDAY 16	TUESDAY 17	WEDNESDAY 18	THURSDAY 19	FRIDAY 20
10:00-12:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Official Opening Ceremonial opening Agenda adoption Election of Vice-Presidents and others Confirmation of the Secretary-General Organisation of work General exchange 	10:00-12:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Article 5 extension requests (continued) 	10:00-12:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General status and operation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting the victims (continued) Clearing mined areas, mine risk education, reduction 	10:00-12:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General status and operation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation and assistance Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities, facilitating compliance 	10:00-12:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General exchange (continued) General status and operation Implementation support <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ISU report Other impl. Support Status of assessed contributions, Art 1
13:00-15:00 Landmine Monitor Briefing Host: ICBL-Landmine Monitor Link for Details	12:30-14:00 Access, awareness, and inclusion in times of isolation and anxiety Host: ICBL-Landmine Monitor Link for Details	13:00-14:30 Inclusivity and Landmine Free 2025: making progress in a pandemic Host: Landmine Free 2025 Campaign Link for Details	13:00-14:30 Moving Forward Via Humanitarian Disarmament Host: Forum on Arms Trade, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica, ICBL Link for Details	13:00-14:30 Enabling best practice through national standards Host: UNMAS, GCSP Link for Details
13:00-15:00 EU Council Decision: Challenges and Successes in Implementation Host: European Union Link for Details	12:30-13:30 Sudan's Article 5 obligation and the implication of the Peace Agreement Host: Permanent Mission of Sudan	13:00-14:00 Sustainable development goals and mine action Host: Norwegian People's Aid & Conflict and Environmental Observatory Link for Details	13:30-14:30 Alternative Finance for Mine Action & Development Host : HALO Trust Link for Details	13:30-15:00 The United Kingdom Presents: Clearance Completion in the Falkland Islands Host: Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom Link for Details
	13:00-14:30 The recovery of human remains in weapon contaminated settings Host: ICRC	14:00-15:00 Managing Complex Environmental Challenges within Mine Action Host: The HALO Trust Link for Details	13:30-14:15 L'utilisation des mines antipersonnel de nature improvisées en Afrique de l'Ouest et au Sahel – Impacts et réponses Host : United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Geneva Office Link for Details	
15:00-17:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Requests under Article 5 and analysis of these requests 	15:00-17:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General status and operation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting the victims 	15:00-17:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General status and operation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clearing mined areas, mine risk education, reduction (continued) 	15:00-18:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General status and operation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Destroying stockpiled AP mines Universalization Transparency, exchange of information 	15:00-18:00 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of Article 5 requests Consideration of matters arising from Article 7 Consideration of requests, Article 8 Election of the 20MSP President Matters pertaining to 19MSP, 20MSP Any other business Final document consideration, adoption 18MSP closure

CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS

Before the current pandemic interrupted the way we normally meet, the Convention community had the opportunity to gather in Oslo where the States Parties adopted their Oslo Action Plan to guide their efforts for the 2020-2024 period.



In February, Sudan as President of the Convention hosted the fifth Pledging Conference with the aim of committing resources to the ISU 2020 work plan, the Convention's Sponsorship Programme and the costs of the Meetings of the States Parties. The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Omer Gamareldin Ismail, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sudan and welcomed H.E. Ms. OMI Asako, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, among other Ambassadors and Representatives of nearly 30 States.



2 Programme of the Eighteenth Meeting of the State Parties (18MSP)

MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 12:00



H.E. Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed, Deputy PR of Sudan to UN Geneva



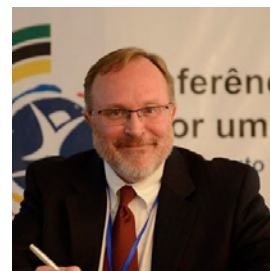
Maj. Gen. Yassin Ibrahim Yassin Abdel-Hadi
Minister of Defence of Sudan



Michelle Bachelet Jeria
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



Gilles Carbonnier
Vice President, ICRC



Steve Goose
ICBL



Gillian Triggs
UNHCR – Photo © UN / Ferré



Dr Barbara Haering
President, GICHD Council of Foundation



Radha Day
UNODA



Luz Dary Landazury
Representative of landmine survivors - Photo © ICBL

1 Official opening of the meeting

2 Ceremonial opening of the meeting

Featuring addresses by Sudan, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Committee of the Red Cross, UNHCR, UNODA, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, and a representative of landmine survivors.

3 Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting will be asked to adopt the agenda presented to delegations during the Intersessional Meetings.

4 Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and other officers

The Meeting will be asked to elect the eight outgoing members of the Committees as Vice-Presidents of the 18MSP: Austria, Canada, Chile, Iraq, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom.

5



Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting

The Meeting will be asked to confirm Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva H.E. Félix Baumann as Secretary-General of the 18MSP.

6 Organisation of work

The Meeting will be asked to adopt its programme.

2 Programme of the Eighteenth Meeting of the State Parties (18MSP)

7 General exchange of views¹

Delegations will be given the opportunity to deliver brief general statements. Interested delegations should contact the Implementation Support Unit, isu@apminebanconvention.org, to be inscribed in the speakers' list. Delegations not wishing to deliver oral statements can submit written statements to be made available on the Convention's website.

15:00-17:00

8 Presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests

The Meeting will be asked to consider mine clearance deadline extension requests submitted/to be submitted by **Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan and Ukraine**. In keeping with past practice an opportunity for presentations and discussions on the requests will be provided, with States Parties returning to formal consideration of such requests later in the week.

TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 12:00

8 Presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (continued)

15:00-17:00

9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

a) Assisting the victims: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance

The Committee on Victim Assistance will present its conclusions and recommendations. States Parties having reported significant numbers of mine victims² are invited to provide brief updates on efforts to fulfil their obligation, and steps undertaken to implement victim assistance actions (Actions #33 through #41) of the Oslo Action Plan. These States Parties are welcome to comment on the Committee's conclusions. Other delegations are welcome to remark on the updates and share their views on victim assistance.

¹Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the meeting, States Parties and Observers are encouraged to refrain from making general statements and rather provide updates on implementation of thematic matters indicated in agenda item 9. Delegations may wish to submit statements for posting on the Convention's website.

²The following 30 States Parties have reported significant numbers of landmine survivors: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

2 Programme of the Eighteenth Meeting of the State Parties (18MSP)

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 12:00

9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

a) Assisting the victims: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance (continued)

b) Clearing mined areas and mine risk education and reduction: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation will present its conclusions and recommendations. States Parties which have recently completed or are still in the process of clearing mined areas³ are invited to provide brief updates on their efforts to fulfil their obligations and on steps taken to implement mine clearance aspects of the *Oslo Action Plan* (Actions #18 through #27). In addition, these States Parties are welcome to comment on the Committee's conclusions. Other delegations are welcome to remark on the updates and share their views on Article 5.

15:00-17:00

9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

b) Clearing mined areas and mine risk education and reduction: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (continued)

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 12:00

9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

c) Cooperation and Assistance: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance will present its conclusions and recommendations. In particular, efforts to strengthen cooperation and assistance and implementation of relevant aspects of the *Oslo Action Plan* (Actions #42 through #47) including through the Individualised Approach and improved communication amongst States Parties. Delegations are given the opportunity to provide updates and share their views.

d) Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance

The Committee on Cooperative Compliance presents its conclusions and recommendations. States Parties mentioned in the conclusions are invited to provide an update on ongoing investigations or activities undertaken to ensure compliance in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention and Actions A48 to A50 of the *Oslo Action Plan*. These States Parties are welcome to comment on the Committee's conclusions. Other delegations are welcome to remark on these updates and to share their views on compliance issues.

³The following 33 States Parties are still in the process of clearing mined areas in accordance with Article 5: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

2 Programme of the Eighteenth Meeting of the State Parties (18MSP)

15:00 – 17:00

e) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

The President will present his conclusions and recommendations on stockpile destruction. States Parties responsible for destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines,⁴ as well States Parties that have discovered previously unknown stockpiles are invited to provide brief updates on their efforts to fulfil their destruction obligations. These updates should contain only new information with efforts made to avoid duplication with respect to updates provided in June at the Intersessional Meetings. Other delegations are given the opportunity to remark on these updates and share their views.

f) Universalizing the Convention

The President will provide an overview on the status of universalization. States not party to the Convention are invited to share their views on the Convention and provide updates on steps being taken or considered to accede to the Convention. Other delegations will be given the opportunity to provide updates on their efforts to encourage universal acceptance of the Convention and share their views.

g) Transparency and the exchange of information

The President will provide an overview on the status of transparency. Delegations are welcome to provide updates and share views on transparency and exchange of information, including transparency as concerns mines retained for permitted purposes.

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 12:00

7 General exchange of views (continued)

9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

h) Implementation Support

i. Report on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU and presentation of a work plan and a budget for the 2021 activities of the ISU

Further to the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU" adopted by the 10MSP and decisions of the 14MSP on strengthening financial governance and transparency, the ISU is to propose and present every year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement, and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval, a detailed yearly budget and work plan for the ensuing year within the range and limits of the applicable multi-year work plan, both in terms of expenditures related to core support contained therein.

The ISU Director will present the work plan and budget for 2021 ISU activities. The Meeting will be asked to approve said work plan and budget. The ISU Director will report on ISU activities, functioning and finances, present the 2019 ISU audit report, as well as the ISU preliminary financial report for 2020.⁵ The Meeting will be asked to approve the report on ISU activities and finances and 2019 audited financial statement. Delegations are given the opportunity to provide comments and/or share their views on the 2021 ISU work plan and budget, 2019 audit report and 2020 preliminary financial report.

⁴Greece, Sri Lanka and Ukraine

⁵The ISU is tasked to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties and to submit an audited annual financial report for the previous year and a preliminary financial report for the present year to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval.

2 Programme of the Eighteenth Meeting of the State Parties (18MSP)

ii. Other matters concerning implementation support

The Meeting will be asked to agree that the 2021 Intersessional Meetings take place on 22 and 24 June 2021.

In keeping with the Presidency's mandate, the 18MSP President undertook the task of consulting with States Parties to identify a list of nominees to serve as new Committee members following the 18MSP. On the basis of interest expressed, the President developed a proposal listing those States Parties that would serve as new Committee members for a two-year term beginning at the end of the 18MSP.

If this proposal is agreed to by the 18MSP, the following eight States Parties will start their new two-year membership term at the end of the 18MSP:

- Committee on Victim Assistance: **Algeria and Ecuador** (new members) to join Sweden and Thailand
- Committee on Article 5 Implementation: **Belgium and Sri Lanka** (new members) to join Norway and Zambia
- Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: **Japan and Sudan** (new members) to join Colombia and Germany
- Committee on Cooperative Compliance: **Chile and Spain** (new members) to join Panama and Poland

10 Status of assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention

The status of assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties will be presented and delegations given the opportunity to provide comments and views on assessed contributions.

15:00 – 17:00

11 Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

The Meeting will present the Decisions on the requests for extended mine clearance deadlines submitted by **Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan and Ukraine.**

12 Consideration of matters arising from/in the context of reports submitted under Article 7

13 Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8

14 Election of the President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties

15 Date, duration, location of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Nineteenth and Twentieth Meetings of the States Parties

H.E. Robbert Jan Gabriëls, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, was elected President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, at the 2019 Fourth Review Conference in Oslo. The 18MSP will be asked to agree that the 19MSP take place in the Netherlands the last week of November 2021.



16 Any other business

Delegations will be given the opportunity to take the floor on matters not otherwise covered.

17 Consideration and adoption of the final document

The Meeting will be asked to consider and adopt its final report.

18 Closure of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties

The meeting will be closed by the 18MSP President.

3 Side Events

MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 13:00 – 15:00 (UTC +1)

LANDMINE MONITOR BRIEFING

HOST: Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor

Civil society experts will discuss recent developments in landmine ban policy survey and the clearance of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, casualties, risk education and efforts to guarantee rights and meet the needs of landmine victims.

Registration

Contact: elea@icblcmc.org

EU COUNCIL DECISION: CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES IN IMPLEMENTATION

HOST: European Union

In 2017, the EU Council adopted a Decision to support States Parties' efforts to implement various Convention aspects and promote its norms. What has been achieved to date, what will occur next? An informative session with States and implementing partners including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. ICBL and ICRC will provide a civil society perspective.

Interpretation: Arabic, English, French, and Spanish.

Registration

Contact: l.rodriguez@apminebanconvention.org

TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 12:30 – 14:00 (UTC +1)

ACCESS, AWARENESS, AND INCLUSION IN TIMES OF ISOLATION AND ANXIETY: REACHING PEOPLE IMPACTED BY MINES AND THOSE IN HIGH RISK GROUPS

HOST: ICBL-Landmine Monitor

Despite gains in recognition of their rights, the situation of mine-affected communities, and many survivors, has become increasingly challenging with situations of social and economic restrictions, conflict, and now the COVID-19 pandemic. Survivors and persons with disabilities require specifically enhanced support efforts, including where clearance has been completed. The social and the economic impact of the measures to tackle the pandemic can make conflict survivors and persons with disabilities more vulnerable. Communities at risk of mine incidents and those facing mine threats in their livelihood activities need to be reached with appropriate messages. Panelists will discuss inclusive means

for identifying these threats and innovative responses to the combined physical, social, and psychological impacts, and isolation.

Registration

Contact: elea@icblcmc.org

13:00 – 14:30 (UTC +1)

SUDAN'S ARTICLE 5 OBLIGATION AND THE IMPLICATION OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT

HOST: Permanent Mission of Sudan

Sudan signed a peace agreement with the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) and Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) on 7 September 2020. As the deadline for Sudan to meet its obligations under Article 5 of April 2023 is approaching, it is important to understand the implication of the current peace agreement on Sudan's work plan to meet its obligations. The event will shed light on the direct impact of the agreement on Sudan's work plan and the financial requirements required to meet its obligations. The meeting will also be attended by a representative from SPLM-N Hilu whose participation is crucial for Sudan to be fully compliant to the Convention.

Registration: Forthcoming

Contact: hatimkh@su-mac.org

13:00 – 14:30 (UTC +1)

THE RECOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS IN WEAPON CONTAMINATED SETTINGS

HOST: ICRC

This side event will present and discuss new guidelines published by the ICRC on the recovery of human remains in weapon contaminated settings. These guidelines are also the basis of a new IMAS chapter that was submitted to the IMAS Review Board in February 2020. When operating in weapon-contaminated environments, forensic teams are often unaware of the explosive hazards that they might encounter or that may lie nearby. Likewise, mine-clearance and EOD specialists may be unaware of the legal requirements to treat human remains with respect and, as far as possible, to facilitate their recovery and identification. This guide therefore seeks to identify common operational principles and outcomes to foster a more collaborative approach between forensic and EOD teams in weapon-contaminated settings.

Link to registration page: Forthcoming

Contact: lmaresca@icrc.org

3 Side Events

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 13:00 – 14:30 (UTC +1)

INCLUSIVITY AND LANDMINE FREE 2025: MAKING PROGRESS IN A PANDEMIC

Host: Landmine Free 2025 Campaign

Hear directly from the people striving to make Landmine Free 2025 a reality, including contributions from deminers and staff working in Colombia and Zimbabwe. This discussion will examine how progress is being made to eradicate the harm caused by landmines despite the COVID-19 pandemic. We will also discuss the opportunities to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and ensure some of the world's most marginalised communities are included in significant economic, health and environmental improvements.

Registration

Contact: coordinator@landminefree2025.org

13:00 – 14:00 (UTC +1)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND MINE ACTION

Host: Norwegian People's Aid & Conflict and Environmental Observatory

To meet societal and environmental challenges, mine action must align with the SDGs. GICHD reviewed the links between mine action and the SDGs in 2017, recommending that further mapping was critical to demonstrate relevance across other areas, such as agriculture. We will discuss what still needs to be done, including how to measure mine action outcomes against the SDGs. The session will focus on environmental protection, covering: 1) how to document relevance 2) what targets can and should be set and monitored, and 3) improving collaboration and making stronger links with development. Speakers from outside mine action will also share experience of the challenges in meeting SDG targets, strengthening collaboration and drive action across organisations.

Registration

Contact: Kendup785@npaid.org

14:00 – 15:00 (UTC +1)

MANAGING COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES WITHIN MINE ACTION

Host: HALO Trust

Mine action does not operate in isolation of global trends and challenges. We must ensure diverse experiences and expertise are engaged when grappling with complex issues that have significant long-term humanitarian and sustainable development impacts. This side event invites experts working at the intersection of conflict and the environment to deepen discussions of conservation, climate change, and environmental management within the mine action space.

Registration

Contact: kristy.davies@halotrust.org

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 13:00 – 14:30 (UTC +1)

MOVING FORWARD VIA HUMANITARIAN DISARMAMENT

Host: Forum on the Arms Trade, with International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Costa Rica

The global pandemic has laid bare the need to define security based on human needs, rather than military might. In recognition, countries have continued to join key humanitarian disarmament efforts on landmines, cluster munitions, nuclear weapons, killer robots, explosive weapons in populated areas, the arms trade and more. But, in too many places, we see a shrinking of civil society space. And the pace of diplomatic progress has slowed. Join us in this virtual side event to discuss the humanitarian disarmament approach, latest developments, and the work ahead.

Registration

Contact: jeff@forumarmstrade.org

3 Side Events

13:30 – 14:30 (UTC +1)

ALTERNATIVE FINANCE FOR MINE ACTION & DEVELOPMENT

Host: HALO Trust

International cooperation and assistance in mine action is based overwhelmingly on bilateral assistance. This will remain essential to achieving progress towards the Convention's 2025 goal. But with the Landmine Free 2025 Campaign estimating a \$1bn shortfall in global funding for survey and clearance, increased pace of progress will depend as much on increased political will as alternative funding models. This event will bring together experts, including in development finance, to explore how these can be applied to mine action sector.

Registration

Contact: chris.loughran@halotrust.org

13:30 – 14:45

L'UTILISATION DES MINES ANTIPERSONNEL DE NATURE IMPROVISÉES EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST ET AU SAHEL – IMPACTS ET RÉPONSES

Host: United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Geneva Office

Des groupes armés non étatiques sévissent dans la région en faisant fi des frontières en Afrique de l'Ouest et au Sahel. Ces groupes armés utilisent des engins explosifs improvisés (EEI) qui fonctionnent comme des mines antipersonnel pour cibler les forces de défense et de sécurité, entraînant souvent la mort et la mutilation de civils. Cet événement fournit une plateforme d'échanges sur les défis liés à la sécurité et l'utilisation de mines antipersonnel de nature improvisée. Après un aperçu de la situation sous divers angles et de leurs conséquences, les présentations et discussions permettront de faire la lumière sur certaines réponses face à cette menace, mettant en avant les possibilités d'actions dans la région.

Registration

Contact: daniela.ciulei@un.org, unmasgeneva@un.org

**FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER
13:30-15:00 (UTC+1)**

THE UNITED KINGDOM PRESENTS: CLEARANCE COMPLETION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Host: Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom

Celebrating the United Kingdom's completion of mine clearance in the Falkland Islands. This side event will bring together presentations from de-miners, programme directors, community leaders and including a limited Q&A.

Registration

Contact: Stephanie.baker@fcdo.gov.uk

13:00-14:45 (UTC+1)

ENABLING BEST PRACTICE THROUGH NATIONAL STANDARDS

Host: United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) & Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Standards are a primary means of capturing, distilling and communicating best practice in mine action. The release of the innovative mineaction.net tool represents a significant step in making it easier to access, understand and demonstrate compliance with IMAS and NMAS. This side event provides an update on initiatives to support affected countries in updating national standards, including thematic approaches on environment and gender, and the national responses in view of action plan objectives. Sector-wide initiatives include ongoing capacity development support for strategic planning, standards development and updating, outreach, compliance and monitoring.

Mlneaction.net is an enabling tool for other initiatives within affected countries, including those represented on the panel, offering the potential to accelerate and ease the alignment of NMAS with IMAS, as detailed in the Oslo Action Plan, Action #5 through sustainable, nationally owned action.

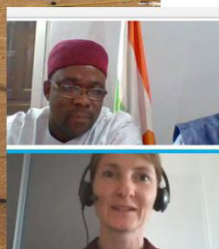
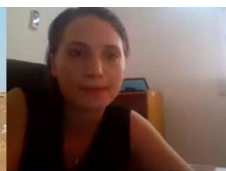
Registration

Contact: g.rhodes@gcsp.ch

INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS



Coronel Juan Lopez Demuth, Chile's National Mine Action Centre Director announced in March that after laborious efforts, members of the Armed Forces had addressed all known minefields within Chile's national territory having removed the 'last anti-personnel mines' in Quebrada Escritos in the Arica and Parinacota region, within the deadline set under the "Ottawa Convention". During the Intersessional Meetings more details were provided by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A formal Declaration is expected at the 18MSP.



Niger, with the support of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance chaired by United Kingdom, and members, Colombia, Germany and Turkey, held an Individualised Approach meeting to highlight to partners and stakeholders its remaining challenges to implement Article 5 obligations. Following on Oslo Action Plan actions, Niger also sought to develop partnerships for faster completion.

4 The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention



The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is a short reference to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, also known as the *Ottawa Convention*. It is the international community's comprehensive response to the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines, indiscriminate weapons that last for decades after conflicts have ended.

The Convention was born from the human tragedy caused by mines in a number of countries throughout the world. In the early 1990s, non-governmental organisations working in war-torn countries brought the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines to the world's attention.

After several regional conferences and a worldwide campaign to bring awareness and support for a comprehensive humanitarian ban on landmines, the Convention was adopted in Oslo, Norway on 18 September 1997. It opened for signature in Ottawa on 3 and 4 December 1997, at a ceremony that featured the participation of dozens of world leaders, and entered into force on 1 March 1999.

For their determination in calling for the Convention, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its co-ordinator Jody Williams were awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

At the Fourth Review Conference in 2019, the States Parties adopted the Oslo Declaration on a Mine-Free World, committing to intensify efforts to promote universal adherence and observance of the Convention's norms, destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines, address mined areas, assist mine victims and expressed their aspiration to meet their goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025. At the same Conference, States Parties further adopted the Oslo Action Plan 2020 – 2024 to guide their efforts.

Presidency of the Convention

In 2020, the Convention has been presided by H.E. Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sudan to the United Nations in Geneva.

Sudan sees the Convention as being more than clearing mined areas but about committing to protect and ensure that landmine survivors are able to exercise their human rights and participate in society on an equal basis with others in their community. In spite of the difficulties faced with the global pandemic, Sudan recognises the resilience of the mine action community in making progress in the implementation of all aspects of the Oslo Action Plan.

Throughout 2020, the Convention President encouraged mine-affected and all other States to actively engage in partnerships to accelerate meeting the Convention's aims. Sudan also worked to promote the Convention among States not party.



Convention champions, ICBL Head of Delegation Steve Goose, Mary Wareham and former coordinator and 1997 Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams attending the 16MSP in Vienna.



4 The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

What is the purpose of the Convention?

The purpose of the Convention is “to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines” through the pursuit of four core aims:

- universal acceptance of a ban on anti-personnel mines;
- destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines;
- clearance of mined areas; and,
- assistance to mine victims.

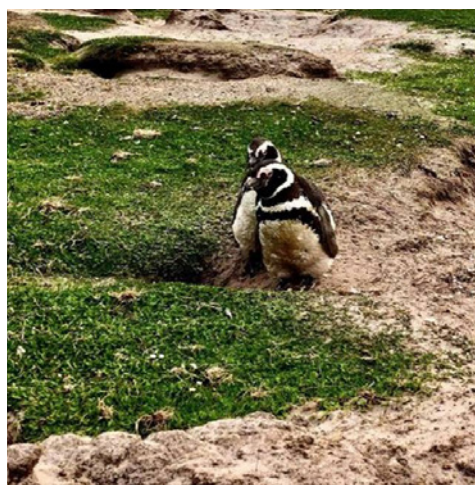
How many countries have joined?

164 States have ratified or have acceded to the Convention. They include:

- most of the States that at one time used, stockpiled, produced or transferred anti-personnel mines;
- the vast majority of States that are or have been affected by anti-personnel mines;
- every State in the Americas, except Cuba and the United States;
- every State in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- every Member State of the European Union; and,
- the majority of ASEAN Member States.

There are 33 States not party to the Convention, including one signatory State*:

Armenia	Israel	Micronesia,	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Federated States of	Syrian Arab Republic
Bahrain	Korea, DPR of	Mongolia	Tonga
China	Korea, Republic of	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Myanmar	United States of America
Egypt	Lao PDR	Nepal	Uzbekistan
Georgia	Lebanon	Pakistan	Vietnam
India	Libya	Russian Federation	
Iran	Marshall Islands*	Saudi Arabia	



The United Kingdom has announced that it has fulfilled its Article 5 obligations after clearing 23 million square meters of contaminated land. More information will be presented during the Meeting. Photos courtesy Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom and Fenix Insight*

**The UN notes that a dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).*

5 Important Dates | 2021



February	Sixth International Pledging Conference, Geneva
1 March	Twenty-second anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention
31 March	Deadline for States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in 2021/2022 to submit requests for extensions, if necessary
4 April	International Day for Mine Action and Awareness
30 April	Deadline for States Parties to submit Article 7 transparency reports for calendar year 2020
22 – 24 June	2021 Intersessional Meetings, Geneva⁶
18 September	Twenty-fourth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention
29 Nov – 3 Dec	Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties⁷
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
3-4 December	Twenty-fourth anniversary of the signing of the Convention



⁶Subject to 18MSP approval.
⁷Ibid.

CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS



Left: Canada, as Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, addressed the Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), highlighting, "Victim-activated IEDs that can incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons, even if they are meant to target a vehicle, do fall under the scope of the AP Mine Ban Convention. It does not matter whether they are home-made or industrially manufactured." The Chair also reiterated the importance of addressing anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature within the framework of the Convention.



To commemorate the Convention's entering into force, Sudan, as Convention President appealed to all members of the Conference on Disarmament that have not yet done so, to join the Convention.



We take this opportunity to bid farewell to former 16MSP President and Ambassador of Austria H.E. Thomas Hajnoczi who has now retired as international civil servant. The world owes him a debt of gratitude for his indefatigable work to ban anti-personnel mines. Known among ban pioneers as the "father of the Convention Text", the Ambassador worked shoulder to shoulder with other like-minded diplomats and civil society campaigners to bring about the Convention as we know it today. His work continued as he lent his voice to further disarmament campaigns representing Austria. Wir sind sehr dankbar!

CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS



At the 18MSP, Sudan paid tribute to the late Minister of Defence of Sudan H.E. Lt. Gen Gamal al-Din Omar, who participated in the Oslo Review Conference and courageously led early peace-making efforts in Sudan. He died during negotiations. His efforts were not futile, as the peace deal was signed and one day prior to the 18MSP, peace makers were celebrated in Khartoum.





In March, Bosnia and Herzegovina held a workshop on its Article 5 extension request. This was a follow up to the 2018 National Stakeholder Dialogue sponsored by the European Union.



The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) is the Secretariat to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

The ISU is mandated to support the States Parties to the Convention, in particular by doing the following:

- Providing support to all States Parties through support to the Convention's implementation machinery and office holders;
- Providing support to individual States Parties, including by providing advice and technical support on implementation and universalization;
- Communicating and providing information about the Convention;
- Keeping records of formal and informal meetings under the Convention; and,
- Liaising and coordinating with relevant international organisations that participate in the work of the Convention.

The ISU is funded on a **voluntary basis** by the States Parties and **directly accountable to the States Parties**. It is hosted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining thanks to support provided by Switzerland.

*Front cover photo, a deminer clearing contaminated lands in Kassala, Sudan.
Back cover photo, a team of deminers work in South Kordofan, Sudan. Photos, courtesy of Sudan's Mine Action Centre. Sudan's mine clearance deadline has been set for 1 April 2023.*



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