
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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Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Progress Report 2019-2020

Submitted by the President of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Committee on Victim Assistance, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the Committee on Cooperative Compliance*

Revision

I. Introduction

1. From 25 November to 29 November 2019, the international community gathered in Oslo, Norway to reaffirm the commitment of States, international organisations and civil society to ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and to achieving a world free of mines. At this historic event – the Fourth Review Conference on a Mine-Free World – the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, while inspired by their collective achievements, expressed their will to strengthen their efforts to overcome remaining challenges.

2. With the aim of supporting enhanced implementation and promotion of the Convention in the five-year period following the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties adopted the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) 2019-2024. The OAP details the actions States Parties will take during the period of 2019–2024 to support implementation of the Convention, building on the achievements of the Nairobi, Cartagena and Maputo Action Plans.

3. To ensure the effectiveness of the OAP, the States Parties appreciate the need to regularly monitor progress of the implementation of the actions contained within it. In particular, the States Parties highlighted that in order to monitor progress in implementing the OAP, the information submitted in the States Parties' annual Article 7 reports will serve as the main source of data to assess progress and that members of the Coordinating Committee and the President will be responsible for measuring progress within their mandate, with the support of the Implementation Support Unit. A baseline value for all indicators will be established based on the data reported in the first year of implementation,

* The present report was submitted after the deadline owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



in Article 7 reports due by 30 April 2020, and progress in subsequent years will be compared to this baseline.

4. On 31 January, the President and the Convention Committees held a retreat to determine the best way forward in establishing a baseline following the Fourth Review Conference. The President and the Committees acknowledge the difficult situation faced by States given the ongoing global pandemic and welcome the information submitted by the States Parties as well as their engagement with the President and the Committees. The information contained within this document draws on information submitted by States Parties in 2020, including Article 7 reports, requests for extension of mine clearance deadlines, updated work plans and information provided during the 2020 Intersessional Meetings.

5. The purpose of the Progress Report 2019-2020 is to support the application of the OAP by measuring progress made during the period of 29 November 2019 to 16 November 2020 and, in doing so, to highlight priority areas of work for the States Parties in the period between the 2020 Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) and the 2021 Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP). It is the first in a series of annual progress reports that will be prepared every year until the 2024 Fifth Review Conference.

II. Universalization – Mandate of President of the 18MSP: Sudan

6. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties committed to promote universal observance of the Convention's norms and objectives, condemn violations of the norms and to take appropriate steps to end the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including by armed non-State actors.

7. As of the Fourth Review Conference the Convention had entered into force for 164 States. There were 33 States - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam - which were not yet party to the Convention including one signatory State - the Republic of the Marshall Islands - which had not yet ratified the Convention.

8. Since the Fourth Review Conference, there were no new ratifications/accessions to the Convention.

9. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties committed to using all available avenues to promote ratification of/accession to the Convention by States not party including by encouraging their participation in the work of the Convention in accordance with Action #11.

10. In accordance with Action # 11, one State Party - Thailand - reported hosting a briefing and site visit for senior representatives from the Ministry of Defence of Myanmar as part of their Universalization efforts.

11. Additionally, Sudan, as President of the Convention addressed the Conference on Disarmament on 26 February 2020 seizing the opportunity to appeal to all members of the Conference that have not yet done so to join the Convention as soon as possible. Moreover, Canada, seized the opportunity of the CCW meeting to appeal to all member to take steps towards accession to the Convention.

12. The President sent letters to States not party requesting an official update to their positions on accession to the Convention and encouraging them to participate in the work of the Convention. A total of 6 States not Party - China, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Republic of Korea and Syrian Arab Republic - responded to the President's request by providing an updated position on accession at the 18MSP. Furthermore, the President held bilateral meetings with 3 States not Party - Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya and Myanmar-

to discuss their position *visa vis* accession to the Convention and encourage their participation in the work of the Convention.

13. All States not party with the exception of three - Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Uzbekistan - have participated at least once in a Convention-related meeting, with some States not party regularly delivering statements providing information about their State's position on the Convention and/or on their activities to implement certain provisions of the Convention as well as their contribution to mine action activities. In 2020, 10 States not party - Kazakhstan, Korea, Republic of, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and the United States of America – registered to participate in the Intersessional Meetings and 11 States not Party – China, India, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic and United States of America - participated in the 18MSP.

14. Additionally, one State not party – Morocco – submitted a voluntary transparency report.

15. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties committed to promote universal observance of the Convention's norms and objectives, condemn violations of these norms and take appropriate steps to end the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including by armed non-State actors in accordance with Action #12.

16. In accordance with Action #12, on 1 June 2020, the President disseminated a press release condemning the use of mines in Libya following reports, including by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, of the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature left in areas of Tripoli. The President called for an immediate halt to the use of anti-personnel mines.

17. On 3 February 2020, the President disseminated a press release acknowledging the unfortunate landmine policy change announced on 31 January 2020 by the United States in which the “administration is rescinding the Presidential Policy concerning anti-personnel landmines (APL)” which the President recognized as a “deviation of what has been its *de facto* and official policy for nearly thirty years” and indicated that doing so could “only drift the US further apart from 80% of the world's States who have committed to protect civilians from these treacherous weapons.”

18. Many States not party acknowledge and support to various degrees the humanitarian goals of the Convention and highlighted the grave consequences of the use of anti-personnel mines. A number of States not party express acceptance for the Convention's norms by choosing to vote every year in favour of the United Nations General Assembly resolution. In 2020, 16 States not Party – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Singapore, Tonga and United Arab Emirates - voted in favour of the resolution.

19. Additionally, 7 States not party – Egypt, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Morocco and Singapore - have indicated that they have put in place moratorium on the use, production, export and/or import of anti-personnel mines.

III. Stockpile destruction and retention of anti-personnel mines - Mandate of President of the 18MSP: Sudan

20. At the Fourth Review Conference, the State Parties noted the importance of ensuring that all stockpiled anti-personnel mines are expeditiously destroyed in line with Article 4 of the Convention.

21. At the close of the Fourth Review Conference, three States Parties – Greece Ukraine and Sri Lanka – had outstanding commitments under Article 4 with two of these State Parties – Greece and Ukraine – being in non-compliance with their Article 4 obligations after the expiration of their 4-year implementation deadline of 1 March 2008 and 1 June 2010, respectively.

22. In accordance with Action #13, as of 29 September 2020, two States Parties– Greece and Ukraine – had provided information on the status of implementation of their obligations with one State Party – Ukraine – having reported progress in implementation since the Fourth Review Conference. Additionally, one State Party – Sri Lanka – has reported having a time-bound plan in place for destruction.

23. Concerning Greece, since the Fourth Review Conference, Greece has not reported on the destruction of their remaining 343,413 anti-personnel mines. Greece indicated that recent complications emanating from environmental compliance issues have caused the temporary pause of the demilitarization process of the remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines and that the competent department of the Ministry of Defence and the Hellenic Defence Systems (HDS) are in close consultation to find the best possible solution to resolve this issue and set the destruction of the remaining stocks back on track in order to fulfil their obligation as soon as possible.

24. Noting with concern that no anti-personnel mines have been destroyed by Greece since the Fourth Review Conference, the President urged Greece to act in response to the appeal made to intensify efforts for the completion of stockpile destruction obligations. The President noted the importance of Greece presenting a time-bound plan for completion by the 18MSP and proceeding with implementation as soon as possible.

25. Concerning Ukraine, since the Fourth Review Conference, Ukraine reported that, during the period of 1 January 2019 to 1 January 2020, 216,252 stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed, including 67,236 PMF-1C type mines and 149,016 POM-2. Ukraine reported that 3,364,889 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remain to be destroyed as of 1 January 2020, including 3,364,284 PFM-type and 605 OZM-4 type mines. Ukraine also reported that the 605 OZM-4 mines are in areas outside of Ukraine’s effective control. Ukraine indicated that within the framework of the Partnership for Peace programme, the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, the NATO Support and Procurement Agency and Ukraine’s State Enterprise “Scientific Production Association “Pavlograd Chemical Plant” have concluded a contract which envisages the disposal of 3,192,696 PFM-1S type mines by 2021.

26. The President concluded that Ukraine had provided information on the status of its stockpile destruction programme, including information on the total number and types of stockpiled anti-personnel mines remaining to be destroyed and those destroyed during the most recent reporting period. The President concluded that while a completion date has been provided by Ukraine, a time-bound plan leading to the projected completion date is still missing. The President concluded that updated information on this matter by the 18MSP would be welcome, including a detailed timetable containing milestones leading to 2021 and information on issues which may potentially affect the projected timetable.

27. Concerning Sri Lanka, in information provided in 2019 in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, Sri Lanka reported that a total of 57,033 anti-personnel mines were destroyed until March 2019 and that 41,357 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed. No updated information has yet been provided in 2020. Sri Lanka provided a plan for the destruction of its stockpile which aims to be completed in 2020.

28. The President concluded that Sri Lanka had provided a time-bound plan with clear milestones for the fulfilment of Article 4 ahead of its 1 June 2022 deadline. The President concluded that updated information on progress made and remaining challenges would be welcome, in particular information on the number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines still held, the number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed in 2020 and whether the stockpile destruction programme is on track to be completed by the end of 2020 as projected.

29. In accordance with Action #15 one State Party – The Gambia – had reported the discovery of 3,000 previously unknown stockpiled mines. The President concluded that it was positive that the Gambia informed the States Parties about this discovery and encouraged the Gambia to act in accordance with Action #15 and “destroy these anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgent priority and no later than six months after their discovery.” The President concluded that regularly updated information on this matter would be welcome.

30. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties noted the importance of ensuring that anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3 do not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes.
31. At the Fourth Review Conference, 70 States Parties had reported retaining mines in accordance with Article 3.
32. Since the Fourth Review Conference:
- (a) Three States Parties – Botswana, Brazil and Chile - indicated that they now retain no anti-personnel mines for training purposes;
 - (b) One State Party – Tajikistan – indicated that the anti-personnel mines it retains under Article 3 are inert and therefore do not fall under the definition of the Convention.
33. One State Party – Tuvalu - has not yet declared whether it retains anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.
34. At present, there are 66 States Parties - Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe - that retain anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.
35. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties committed to annually review the number of mines retained and report on the use of retained mines in accordance with Action #16. As of 29 September, 38 States Parties – Angola, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Oman, Peru, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe – submitted Article 7 reports. Nonetheless, only 16 States Parties - Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Sudan, Tunisia and Turkey - reported on the use/destruction of retained mines during the reporting period.
36. Additionally, 21 States Parties - Angola, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Romania, Spain, Sudan, Turkey and Yemen - reported on their current or planned use for retained anti-personnel mines. Of these, 13 States Parties - Angola, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Mauritania, Peru, Slovakia, Sweden and Zimbabwe - reported no change in the number of anti-personnel mines they retain under Article 3 compared to the previous year. Some States Parties have reported no use of anti-personnel mines for many years.
37. Three States Parties – The Gambia, Oman and Serbia – submitted an annual report but the report did not contain information on anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3.
38. In accordance with Action # 17 two States Parties – Iraq and Sudan – reported efforts to explore alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes.
39. To support implementation of Action #17, the President organised a panel discussion at the 2020 Intersessional Meetings and invited The Development Initiative (TDI) to deliver a presentation on *Alternatives to the Use of Live Anti-Personnel Mines for Training*. The objective of the panel was to raise awareness on the alternatives to the use of live anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes of the Convention and to emphasize their benefits. During the discussion, the expert responded to a number of questions concerning the effectiveness of 3D printed alternatives.

IV. Survey and clearance of mined areas – Mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Austria, Canada, Norway and Zambia

40. At the Fourth Review Conference the States Parties, while recognizing that considerable progress has been made in addressing mined areas, reiterated the need to increase the pace of survey and clearance activities to meet Article 5 obligations as soon as possible. To ensure significant progress towards their ambition of completing their time-bound obligations to the fullest extent possible by 2025, the States Parties agreed that accelerated survey and clearance would provide the greatest contribution to reducing human suffering and to protecting people from the risk posed by anti-personnel mines. The States Parties adopted a number of actions in this regard.

41. At the close of the Fourth Review Conference – 32 States Parties were in the process of implementing Article 5 obligations. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the following has transpired:

- (a) One State Party – Chile - reported having completed implementation of Article 5.
- (b) Two State Parties – Mauritania and Nigeria - informed the States Parties that they have discovered previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas in territory under their jurisdiction or control.

42. There are now 33 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the 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 –in the process of implementing Article 5.

43. Of these, 28 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, State of Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe – submitted Article 7 reports containing updated information on progress in implementation of Article 5 with 18 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – employing the Guide to Reporting in accordance with Action #8.

44. Additionally, 7 States Parties - Iraq, Peru, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Yemen – responded to the request from the Committee to provide additional information following the Intersessional Meetings.

45. One State Party- Mozambique – which declared completion in 2015, noting at the time that areas remain seasonally or permanently submerged under water and are marked and regularly monitored, reported that 4 tasks measuring 1'118 square meters remain inaccessible.

46. As of 29 September 2020, 6 States Parties - the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and the State of Palestine - have not submitted Article 7 reports.

47. The Committee welcomed the information submitted by States Parties and noted an increase in the quality of reports. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties – Afghanistan, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe - provided a *high degree of clarity*¹ on their remaining challenge, 8 States Parties - Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia,

¹ State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area.

Colombia, Mauritania, Somalia, and Turkey - provided *clarity*² and 4 States Parties – Chad, Oman, Ukraine and Yemen - provided *some clarity*³.

48. As of 29 September 2020, of the 8 States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in December 2020 and 2021- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan and Ukraine - 7 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan and Ukraine – submitted requests for extension for consideration by the 18MSP.

49. Despite the Committee’s best efforts and sustained outreach and dialogue including in cooperation with the President of the Convention, as of 29 September 2020, Eritrea has not submitted a request for extension of its 31 December 2020 Article 5 deadline. The Committee expresses concern that, should Eritrea not submit a request for extension for consideration by the 18MSP, it will find itself in a situation of non-compliance with Article 5 of the Convention following the expiration of its deadline on 31 December 2020. Furthermore, Eritrea has not submitted an Article 7 report providing updated information on progress in implementation since the Third Review Conference in 2014.

50. Of the 2 States Parties – Mauritania and Nigeria - that reported having identified previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas, as of 29 September 2020, 1 State Party – Mauritania - submitted a request for an extended deadline of its Article 5 obligations for consideration by the 18MSP in line with the decisions adopted by the 12MSP.

51. The Committee welcomes the extension requests submitted by States Parties and their engagement with the Committee during bilateral meetings that have allowed for a cooperative dialogue to take place on the nature of information provided in their extension requests as envisioned by the process established by the States Parties. The Committee further welcomed input provided by organizations including from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the HALO Trust, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Mine Action Review (MAR), Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

52. Of the 4 States Parties - Croatia, Serbia, Sudan and the United Kingdom – that were due to submit updated work plans pursuant to decisions taken by the States Parties on their requests for extension, all four submitted updated work plans. The Committee welcomed these States Parties acting upon the decisions and recommendations of the States Parties, including by providing updated information regarding the impact of survey results on Article 5 deadlines and reporting on adjusted milestones for implementation of their Article 5 obligations.

53. In accordance with Action #18, 26 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to establish an evidence-based baseline of contamination.

54. Furthermore, 23 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan,

² State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions / provinces / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.

³ State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions / provinces / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain antipersonnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.

Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, and Yemen – reported being in the process of carrying out survey activities to gain clarity on their remaining challenge.

55. In accordance with Action #18, 7 States Parties – Afghanistan, Cambodia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Serbia, Somalia, and Zimbabwe - reported having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men.

56. In accordance with Action #19, 25 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported having evidence-based and costed national work plans in place.

57. In accordance with Action #20, 24 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe – provided annual updates and adjusted milestones (qualitative and quantitative) for completion. Additionally, 1 State Party – Chile – reported having completed implementation of its Article 5 obligations. The Committee noted that completion of Article 5 implementation by Chile was a major milestone and that after 18 years of effort, military and civilian personnel of the Chilean Armed Forces have addressed 200 mined areas measuring 27,533,823 square meters, destroying in the process 179,815 anti-personnel mines.

58. In accordance with Action #21, 7 States Parties - Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, Ukraine and Yemen - reported being affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and are applying the provision of the Convention including survey, clearance and reporting.

59. At the 2020 Intersessional Meetings the Committee held a panel discussion entitled *Addressing anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature under the framework of the Convention* with the objective of raising awareness of Action#21 and the agreed understanding of the States Parties of the place of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature within the Convention, explore best practices in reporting and the importance of the disaggregation of devices and available guidance. The panel included representatives of Canada, the Mine Action Review, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination of Afghanistan and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

60. On 29 September 2020, Canada as the Chair of the Committee delivered a statement on behalf of the Committee during the CCW Protocol II discussions concerning anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to further the understanding of the place of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature within the framework of the Convention.

61. In accordance with Action #22, 25 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported on progress and status of implementation in their Article 7 reports in a manner consistent with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In addition, 18 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe - provided updated survey and clearance data, disaggregating by type of contamination.

62. In accordance with Action #23, of the 8 States Parties that submitted requests for extension in 2020 , 6 States Parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Senegal and South Sudan– included multiyear work plans for the period of the extension. 1 State Party – Mauritania – submitted a request for an extended deadline to allow time to develop a detailed work plan for submission in a second request by 31 March 2021. In the case of 2 States Parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine - their work plan is developed annually through an internal process which determines the priorities to be addressed. Furthermore, of the 8 States Parties that submitted requests for extension

in 2020, 2 States Parties – Colombia and South Sudan – submitted their request in accordance with the extension request process.

63. In accordance with Action #24, of the 8 States Parties that have submitted requests for extension, only 4 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ukraine – provided information on plans to implement mine risk education during the extension period.

64. In accordance with Action #25, since the Fourth Review Conference, 1 State Party – Chile – declared completion and submitted a voluntary declaration of completion.

65. In accordance with Action #26, 18 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported on efforts to establish a national sustainable capacity and 5 States Parties – Ecuador, Ethiopia, Peru, Turkey, and the United Kingdom - reported having put in place a sustainable capacity.

66. In accordance with Action #27, 24 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency primarily through the updating of National Mine Action Standards.

V. Mine risk education and reduction – Mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Austria, Canada, Norway and Zambia

67. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties committed to intensifying their efforts to prevent new casualties in affected areas and providing effective, relevant and targeted mine risk education and other risk reduction measures to all groups at risk to increase protection until the threat of anti-personnel mines can be removed.

68. In accordance with Action #28, 21 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Iraq, Mauritania, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to integrate mine risk education and reduction programmes into wider humanitarian, development, protection and education programmes.

69. In accordance with Action #29, 13 States Parties - Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe - reported having mine risk education and reduction programmes in place that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and have reported data in a disaggregated manner.

70. In accordance with Action #30, 11 States Parties – Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe – reported on their efforts to prioritise people most at risk through an analysis of available casualty and contamination data.

71. In accordance with Action #31, 8 States Parties - Cambodia, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan and Zimbabwe – reported updates on their efforts to build a national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes.

72. In accordance with Action #32, 25 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - provided information on actions taken to effectively increase the protection of all affected populations and groups at risk.

VI. Victim Assistance: Mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance: Chile, Italy, Sweden and Thailand

73. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties reemphasized their commitment to ensuring the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society, based on respect for human rights, gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination. The States Parties further recognized that in order to be effective and sustainable, Victim Assistance (VA) should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, and to health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction in support of the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, States Parties with victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control committed to do their utmost to provide appropriate, affordable and accessible services to mine victims, on an equal basis with others.

74. At the close of Fourth Review Conference, 30 States Parties - Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the 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 - reported significant numbers of mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control.

75. As of 29 September 2020, 21 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Jordan, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe - submitted Article 7 reports.

76. Of these, 18 States Parties - Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe - submitted updated information on VA activities in their Article 7 reports with 5 States Parties - Cambodia, Jordan, South Sudan, Tajikistan and Yemen - having used the Guide to Reporting in producing their reports.

77. Two States Parties - Angola and Mozambique - submitted information on VA efforts directly to the Committee.

78. Early in 2020, the Committee developed a VA Checklist to be used by States Parties with VA obligations to report and measure the state of progress in victim assistance and supported their effort to establish a baseline on all aspects of VA. As of 29 September 2020, 14 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Chad, Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mozambique, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe - submitted additional information by completing the VA Checklist.

79. As of 29 September 2020, 11 States Parties with significant number of mine survivors - Albania, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Nicaragua, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka and Uganda - had not submitted updated information on implementation efforts.

80. Three additional States Parties - Algeria, Chile and Turkey - submitted information in their Article 7 reports on implementation of VA commitments.

81. Additionally, 10 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Peru, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe - responded to the request of the Committee to provide any additional information to the Committee following the Intersessional Meetings.

82. As of 29 September 2020, 9 States Parties - Albania, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka and Uganda - have not submitted Article 7 reports or information on their implementation efforts.

83. In accordance with Action #33, 19 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey and Zimbabwe - reported on the designated government entity charged with the coordination of victim assistance activities. Additionally, 16 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Somalia, South

Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe – reported having in place nation action plans containing SMART objectives. In accordance with Action #3, 16 States Parties - Afghanistan, Algeria, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported taking into account the diverse needs and gender equality in relation to meeting the needs of mine victims.

84. In accordance with Action #34, 18 States Parties - Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported having assigned an entity such as Ministry of Health or Ministry of Social Affairs and/or national disability council to lead or co-lead on the integration of VA into broader frameworks while also indicating a continued role for the national mine action centre/authority in the areas of data collection, coordination, planning and reporting. Additionally, 13 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan and Thailand – reported on the inclusion of mine victims and their representative organizations in relevant activities and planning.

85. In recognizing the importance of multi-sectoral effort and taking advantage of synergies, on 27 January 2020, the Committee convened a retreat to increase cooperation with Geneva-based actors working on issue related to VA such as, the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Convention, the VA Coordinator and the Cooperation and Assistance Coordinator of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, representatives of the ICBL, the ICRC, Humanity and Inclusion, UNMAS Geneva and the Secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The retreat provided an opportunity to exchange plans and priorities pursued in 2020 and stressed the need for coherent advice and support to States seeking assistance, in meeting their VA obligation.

86. Furthermore, in its efforts to raise awareness and further strengthen synergies, the Committee delivered statements in relevant fora including during the annual debate on the rights of persons with disability of the Human Rights Council on 6 March 2020 and during the opening of the twenty-third session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 17 August. Additionally, the Committee participated on a panel concerning VA during the CCW Protocol V meeting on 28 September 2020 using the opportunity to reemphasize the complementary efforts of Action #40 of the OAP and Article 11 of the CRPD and the importance of an ensuring an integrated approach to VA by all actors.

87. In accordance with Action #35, 18 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – provided information on the status of efforts and challenges in establishing or strengthening a centralized national database. Additionally, 5 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Peru, Thailand and Yemen – reported that data on mine victims was shared with relevant national authorities and stakeholders.

88. 18 of these States Parties - Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported that they have been regularly collecting information on new mine casualties and in most cases registering the information into mine action database. The Committee also noted that 7 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, Iraq, Sudan, Thailand and Turkey - have provided casualty information or indicated collecting disaggregated data by gender, age and impairment and 4 States Parties - Afghanistan, Colombia, Ethiopia and Thailand - reported integrating casualty information into disability related national or centralized databases.

89. In accordance with Action #36, 8 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Sudan, Thailand and Turkey - reported on the availability of first aid or pre-hospital emergency medical care.

90. In accordance with Action #37, 7 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Thailand– reported having in place a national referral mechanism and 7 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Peru

and Thailand – reported having in place and disseminating a comprehensive directory of available services.

91. In accordance with Actions #38, 21 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen, Turkey, and Zimbabwe – reported progress in providing or on availability of all or some of the elements included in Action #38 including:

- (a) 15 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand and Zimbabwe – reported on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services with two States Parties - Cambodia and Colombia – reported on the provision of occupational therapy as part of their rehabilitation support;
- (b) 5 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia and Sudan– reported on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services; and
- (c) 8 States Parties - – Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Jordan, Senegal, Tajikistan and Thailand – reported on the availability of psychosocial or peer-to-peer support.

92. In accordance with Action #39, 18 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chile, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkey – reported on efforts to ensuring the social and economic inclusion of mine victims, including on efforts to removing barriers to social and economic inclusion of mine victims.

93. In accordance with Action #40, 7 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Thailand – reported on their integration of protection of mine survivors in humanitarian response and preparedness plans and 2 States Parties - Cambodia and Peru -reported on their efforts to ensure the safety and protection of persons with disabilities and mine survivors during COVID-19 pandemic.

94. Most States Parties that provided information on Action #40 indicated the existence of national disaster management policies, with some indicating the inclusion of mine survivors and persons with disabilities’ needs in such policies. One State Party -Thailand - reported implementing a specific plan in this regard, a Disaster Management Plan for Persons with Disabilities, that was developed and being implemented in-line with Thailand’s Action Plan for Disaster Management.

95. At the 2020 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee held a panel discussion on *Safety and Protection of Mine Survivors in Situations of Risks and Humanitarian Emergencies*. The objective of the panel was to increase understandings on the significance of the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk and emergencies and to offer expert recommendations on how they can be achieved over the next five years. The panel drew attention on potential disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mine survivors and to keep abreast of good practices in this regard in order to reduce risks and consequences on lives and livelihoods of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities. Experts included representatives of Colombia, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, the ICRC, Humanity & Inclusion and Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations.

96. In accordance with Action #41, 14 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan and Thailand – provided information or indicated a commitment to ensure the inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in matters that affect them.

97. States Parties that provided information on progress or challenges in meeting the social and economic inclusion needs of mine victims, have been reporting on efforts to integrate the needs of mine survivors into broader frameworks, 4 States Parties –

Afghanistan, Chad, Iraq and Peru - have reported on the application of employment quota in favour of persons with disabilities including mine survivors. The Committee noted that 5 States Parties - Ethiopia, Jordan, South Sudan, Sudan and Tajikistan – have reported applying national standards to remove physical barriers by ensuring the accessibility of built environments, such as schools, hospitals and other premises where public services are served as well as parks, places of worship, pedestrians and etc.

98. Ahead of the 18MSP the Committee organized a Victim Assistance (VA) Experts meeting. The VA Experts Meeting raised awareness on safety and protection needs of mine victims in situations of risks and emergencies in accordance with **Action #41** of the Oslo Action Plan. Case studies on the integration of mine victims needs into national disaster management policies in Afghanistan, Colombia and Uganda were presented to show different approaches applied to ensure the safety and protection of mine victims during emergencies including during public health crises such as COVID-19. Experts from Humanity and Inclusion, UNMAS, International Disability Alliance, UNICEF and UNHCR shared best practices and suggestions for the implementation of Action #41. States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities – Afghanistan, Colombia, Chad, Jordan, Senegal, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Tajikistan – provided updates on their efforts to implement Action #41.

VII. International Cooperation and Assistance - Mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: Colombia, Germany, Turkey and the United Kingdom

99. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties noted that while each State Party is ultimately responsible for implementing the provisions of the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, enhanced cooperation could support implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible.

100. In accordance with Action #42, 18 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Colombia, Mauritania, Niger, Serbia, Senegal, Sudan, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported making national financial commitments to the implementation of their Convention obligations. Among these States Parties, 1 States Party – Angola – had reported on efforts to explore alternative and/or innovative sources of funding and encourage other States to do the same.

101. Additionally, 19 States Parties – Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom – reported providing financial or other support to affected States Parties. Of these, 5 States Parties – Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom – provided information on how they support considerations for gender in mine action.

102. In accordance with Action #43, 6 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Peru, Serbia, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe – reported on efforts to mobilize resources or established resource mobilization plans and 17 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Colombia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported on challenges faced and requirements for assistance.

103. Also, in accordance with Action #43, 1 State Party – Niger – took advantage of the Individualised Approach on the margins of the Intersessional Meetings. Furthermore, 2 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – took advantage of the Individualised Approach on the margins of the 18MSP.

104. In accordance with Action #44, 3 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Tajikistan – reported on efforts to strengthen national dialogue and ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders and establishing an in-country platform for dialogue between stakeholders.

105. In accordance with Action #45, 19 States Parties – Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New

Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom – reported providing financial or other support to affected States Parties, 5 States Parties – Austria, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand and Norway– reported providing funding for VA and 16 States Parties – Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom - reported providing support for mine clearance efforts.

106. In accordance with Action #46, 6 States Parties – Belgium, Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and United Kingdom - reported on efforts to coordinate their support for effective implementation of the Convention.

107. During the 2020 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee held a panel discussion on *Aligning donor coordination to support implementation of the OAP*. The objective of the panel was to stimulate engagement on the actions related to international cooperation and assistance in the OAP and explore how to strengthen cooperation and assistance to ensure that these actions are implemented, and real progress is made towards meeting the 2025 ambitions of the States Parties. The panel discussion helped the Committee in its wider efforts to gather best practices and lessons learned in order to support and assist States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. The panel looked at 4 aspects of Cooperation and Assistance: National Ownership, Donor Coordination, South-South Cooperation and Gender. The panel included representatives of Chile, Colombia, Germany in its function as Chair 2020-21 of the *Mine Action Support Group*, Japan and the United Kingdom.

108. In accordance with Action #47, 11 States Parties – Afghanistan, Argentina, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Lithuania, Spain, Thailand and Turkey – reported sharing best practices and lesson learned through international, regional, South-South and/or bilateral Cooperation.

VIII. Measures to ensure compliance – Mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance: Iraq, Panama, Poland, Sudan and Switzerland

109. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties recognized the importance of compliance with the provisions of the Convention and committed to promote compliance to meet the Convention’s objectives.

110. In this regard, the States Parties committed to ensure that in the event of alleged or known non-compliance with the general obligations under Article 1 the State Party concerned will provide information on the situation to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible and will work together with other States Parties in a spirit of cooperation to resolve the matter in an expeditious and effective manner, in accordance with Article 8.1 and Action #48.

111. Since the close of the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee has continued its consideration of cases of non-compliance and allegations of non-compliance with Article 1.1 of the Convention by 3 States Parties – Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen. The Committee noted that since the Fourth Review Conference there have been no new allegations of non-compliance with Article 1.1.

112. The Committee welcomes the dialogue sustained with all three States Parties over the course of the year, including through bilateral meetings. The Committee also welcomes the interaction with organizations in the deliberation of their work including interactions with Human Rights Watch, ICBL, ICRC and UNMAS.

113. Concerning Sudan, the Committee appreciates Sudan’s engagement with the Committee and welcomes Sudan continuing to act upon its commitment under Action #48. The Committee welcomes continued updated information on the security situation in the remaining areas where allegations have surfaced and where Sudan indicated that security presents an impediment to investigations. The Committee encourages Sudan to continue working with all partners to ensure that investigations can take place as soon as possible. The Committee also welcomes the news that on 3 October 2020 a Peace Agreement was signed

in Sudan which is expected to contribute to the opening of access to areas where investigations are pending.

114. Concerning Yemen, the Committee appreciates Yemen's engagement with the Committee and looks forward to engaging further with Yemen. The Committee welcomes Yemen acting upon its commitments under Action #48. The Committee observed that it would welcome continued updated information on the security situation and efforts made by Yemen to carry out investigations on allegations and on the transfer and use of mines within areas under its jurisdiction or control.

115. Concerning Ukraine, the Committee welcomes Ukraine's continued dialogue and exchange of information with the Committee concerning allegations of use dating back to 2015. During the dialogue sustained with Ukraine, Ukraine has verified that the Ukrainian defence and law enforcement agencies "have never used, do not use and are not planning to use anti-personnel mines" and that "the Armed Forces of our country are authorized to use MON-series and OZM-72 mines only in command-detonate mode (through electrical initiation) which is not prohibited by the Ottawa Convention". Likewise, no new allegation of use of mines has been raised since the 2015 Human Rights Watch Report. In this regard, following engagement with Ukraine over the past years and engagement with civil society concerning allegations of use in Ukraine, the Committee has concluded that there was no reason to maintain this case on its agenda at this stage. Nonetheless, the Committee notes the importance of Ukraine taking appropriate measures by adopting national legislation under Article 9 or indicating that they consider existing national laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention as soon as possible.

116. To ensure compliance with the Convention, the States Parties recognized in the context of Action #49 of the OAP, the importance of States Parties submitting Article 7 reports on an annual basis, in particular States Parties with obligations under Article 4 or 5 or retaining or transferring mines in line with Article 3.

117. In this regard, as of 29 September 2020, the following States Parties have not submitted reports in 2020:

- (a) Concerning the 3 States Parties with Article 4 obligations, one State Party - Sri Lanka - has not submitted an Article 7 report.
- (b) Concerning the 33 States Parties with Article 5 obligations, 5 States Parties – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Nigeria, Niger and Sri Lanka – have not submitted an Article 7 report. Of these, 3 States Parties – Eritrea, Niger and Nigeria – have not submitted an Article 7 report in the last two years. The Committee notes that Niger submitted a request for extension of its Article 5 deadline in 2020 with information on its implementation of Article 5.
- (c) Concerning the 66 States Parties retaining mines under Article 3, 27 States Parties – Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Venezuela and Zambia -have not submitted an Article 7 Report. Three States Parties that submitted Article 7 reports – Gambia, Oman and Serbia – submitted an annual report but the report did not contain information on anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3.
- (d) Of these, 20 States Parties – Benin, Bhutan, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Kenya, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Venezuela – have not submitted an Article 7 in the last two years.

118. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties recognized the importance of States Parties urgently fulfilling their obligations under Article 9 in accordance with Action #50. At the close of the Convention's Fourth Review Conference 54 States Parties had not reported having adopted legislation or that they considered existing laws to be sufficient in the context of Article 9.

119. Since the Fourth Review Conference, one State Party – Iraq - indicated that it considers existing laws to be sufficient.

120. As of 29 September 2020, 53 States Parties - Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Suriname, Togo, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay and Vanuatu - have not reported the adoption of national legislation or if they consider existing national laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention.

121. The Committee has initiated collaboration with the ICRC to raise awareness of this important matter with States Parties. In particular, the Committee met with the ICRC to discuss matters related to national legislation under Article 9 of the Convention and **Action #50** of the Oslo Action Plan as well areas of possible cooperation in support of States Parties and in accordance with the Committee's mandate.¹²² Additionally, at the 2020 Intersessional Meetings the Committee held a panel discussion on Cooperative Compliance within the framework of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The objective of the panel was to raise awareness of a) the compliance challenges faced by the Convention following 21 years of implementation b) existing measures to ensure compliance under the Convention and their strengthening by the OAP, and c) the role of the Committee in the cooperative implementation of the Convention. The panel discussion formed part of the efforts of the Committee to raise awareness of the important measures related to compliance adopted by the Fourth Review Conference to ensure implementation of the Convention and to encourage States Parties to improve their reporting practices in this regard, in order to support efforts of establishing a clear implementation baseline by the end of the current year. The panel included representatives of the ICBL and the ICRC.

IX. Best Practices for implementing the Convention

123. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties, in committing to meeting their obligations in the Convention's traditional spirit of cooperation and transparency, identified several best practices that are key to the successful implementation of the Convention's obligations.

124. In accordance with Action #1, 24 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe - have reported on the integration of Convention implementation activities into other national frameworks associated with development, poverty reduction, humanitarian response and disabilities. This includes 19 States Parties reporting having integrated mine action activities into national plans and 18 States Parties reporting having assigned an entity such as Ministry of Health or Ministry of Social Affairs and/or national disability council to lead or co-lead on the integration of VA into broader frameworks.

125. Additionally, in accordance with Action #1, 25 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported making national financial commitment to the implementation of their Article 5 and or victim assistance obligations under the Convention.

126. In accordance with Action #2, 25 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported having evidence-based costed and timebound national strategies and work plans in place for achieving their mine clearance obligations under the Convention and 16 States Parties -

Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Zimbabwe - reported having strategies and work plans in place to address their VA commitments.

127. In accordance with Action #3, 19 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation.

128. At the 2020 Intersessional Meetings the gender focal points of the Committees (Chile, Colombia, Norway and Panama) held a panel discussion entitled *Effective Implementation for All – Gender and Diverse needs in practice*. The objective of the panel was to continue raising awareness of the value of gender and diversity mainstreaming for effective implementation of the Convention, addressing key practical challenges in policy making, planning, programming and implementation and lastly, its evaluation. The panel provided an overview of the challenges that remain to be addressed to ensure consideration of gender and diversity in all areas of implementation and provided some best practices and recommendations to ensure effective, efficient and context- specific implementation. Finally, the panel served to familiarize States Parties with the role of gender focal points. The panel included representatives of the Cambodian Mine Action Authority, the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda, Mines Advisory Group and the HALO Trust.

129. During the 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers held from 11 to 14 February 2020 the President Chaired a Plenary Session entitled *Mine Action for People: Dimensions of Diversity*. The President used this opportunity to provide information on the adopted OAP and the focus on ensuring the mainstreaming of gender and ensuring that the diverse needs of mine affected communities was taken into account in mine action programming.

130. In accordance with Action #3 of the 86 delegations of States Parties registered to attend the 2020 Intersessional Meetings, 44 delegations of States Parties – Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Iraq, Ireland, Kuwait, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela – including women in their delegations.

131. In accordance with Action #4, 7 States Parties – Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Serbia, South Sudan and Sudan – reported developing their national strategies /work plans in an inclusive manner taking into consideration the needs of affected communities. Furthermore 13 States Parties with significant number of mine victims – Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan and Thailand – reported that they include victim organizations in victim assistance planning. Finally, no delegation reported mine victims on their respective delegations.

132. In accordance with Action #5, 12 States Parties – Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan and the United Kingdom - reported having national mine action standards based on IMAS in place and 13 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported that they were in the process of updating National Mine Action Standards during the reporting period.

133. In accordance with Action #6, 25 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe - have reported having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant.

134. In accordance with Action #7 of the OAP 6 States Parties – Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Thailand and Zimbabwe – have reported on partnership with other States Parties in support of fulfilment of the Convention obligations with 19 States Parties – Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom– reporting financial or other support and 11 States Parties – Belgium, Canada, Estonia, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – reporting providing multi-year funding to affected States Parties.

135. In accordance with Action #8 of the Oslo Action Plan. In this regard, 19 States Parties – Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – prepared their Article 7 report using the Guide to Reporting. Additionally, 18 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine and Yemen - provide information on progress and challenges in implementation during the 30 June – 2 July 2020 Intersessional Meetings and a further 27 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe – did so during the 18MSP.

136. In accordance with Action #8, 28 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe – submitted Article 7 reports containing updated information on progress in implementation of Article 5 and 15 States Parties with significant numbers of mine victims – Afghanistan, Angola, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Yemen and Zimbabwe – provided information on progress and challenges they face in meeting their VA commitments.

137. In accordance with Action #9, 24 States Parties - Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - highlighted that they maintain a national information management system with updated information on the status of implementation.

138. In accordance with Action #10 of the OAP, as of 31 August 2020, 122 States Parties have paid their assessed contributions for the 18MSP by 31 August 2020. As of 29 September, according to the United Nations, 42 States Parties - Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe – have outstanding contributions.

139. In line with Action #10 of the OAP, as of 29 September, 19 States Parties – Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and Turkey – have contributed to the ISU in 2020. Over the course of 2020 the ISU continued to support the President, Committees and the States Parties in their implementation support efforts. The ISU In 2020, was granted observer status to the *Mine Action Support Group* meetings.