



'ending the suffering caused
by anti-personnel mines'
ap mine ban convention

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES
18-22 November 2007
Dead Sea, Jordan**

Guide to the Provisional Programme¹

SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 13:00

1. Official opening of the meeting.

The 8MSP will be officially opened by Her Excellency, Ambassador Caroline Millar of Australia, President of the Seventh Meeting of the State Parties (7MSP).

2. Election of the President.

The 7MSP agreed to designate His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid of Jordan President of the 8MSP.

3. Brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

In keeping with tradition at Meetings of the State Parties (MSPs), brief messages will be delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

At the 27 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, a draft agenda was presented. The Co-Chairs concluded that this was acceptable to the States Parties for adoption at the 8MSP. (See document #

¹ This document has been prepared by the President-Designate of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to assist the States Parties and observer delegations in preparing to participate in the 8MSP. It is recognized that this provisional programme is subject to the adoption by the States Parties and that timings for agenda items are only notional and subject to change.

*APLC/MSP.8/2007/1***, which is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at www.8msp.org).

5. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

At the 27 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, draft rules of procedure were presented. The Co-Chairs concluded that these were acceptable to the States Parties for adoption at the 8MSP. (See document # APLC/MSP.8/2007/5, which is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at www.8msp.org).*

6. Adoption of the budget.

At the 27 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, draft cost estimates were presented. The Co-Chairs concluded that these were acceptable to the States Parties for adoption at the 8MSP. (See document # APLC/MSP.8/2007/4, which is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at www.8msp.org).*

7. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers.

In keeping with tradition at MSPs, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees will be nominated to serve as Vice-Presidents of the 8MSP, namely: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Chile, Estonia, Italy, Norway and Sudan.

8. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting.

In keeping with tradition at MSPs, the host country has nominated a Secretary-General, namely, Mr. Ayman Al-Amery, Director of International Relations and Organizations at the Foreign Ministry of Jordan.

9. Organization of work.

*At the 27 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, a draft programme was presented. The Co-Chairs concluded that this was acceptable to the States Parties for adoption at the 8MSP. (See document # APLC/MSP.8/2007/2**, which is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at www.8msp.org).*

10. General exchange of views.

States Parties and observers are encouraged to refrain from making general statements but rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters indicated in agenda item 11. In addition, if they wish, delegations can distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements.

15:00 – 18:00

10. General exchange of views (continued).

States Parties and observers are encouraged to refrain from making general statements but rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters indicated in agenda item 11. In addition, if they wish, delegations can distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements.

11. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention:

In keeping with past practice, much of Agenda Item 11 will feature thematic discussions on the core aims of the Convention and on other matters essential for achieving the aims of the Convention. States Parties which are in the process of clearing mined areas, assisting the victims, destroying stockpiled mines or fulfilling other obligations may wish to seize the opportunity presented by these thematic discussions to provide further clarity or new information on the steps they are taking to fulfill their responsibilities.

In order to prepare updates on these matters, relevant States Parties may wish to provide additional information in accordance with questions posed by the Co-Chairs in advance of the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees. In preparing updates, States Parties should take into account that only new information should be provided, that updates on most matters should be brief and that updates on more complex aspects of implementation (e.g., mine clearance) should not exceed eight minutes.

(a) Universalizing the Convention.

States Parties and others may wish to provide updates on efforts they have undertaken since the 7MSP to promote universal acceptance of the Convention.

States not parties may wish to provide updates on steps they are taken towards accession to the Convention.

MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 13:00

11. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued):

(b) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in the process of fulfilling Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations

- 1. What steps has your State taken to establish the type, quantity, and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed?*
- 2. What appropriate national and local capacities have been established to meet your Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations?*
- 3. What is the status of your State's stockpile destruction programme? (How many mines have been destroyed and remain to be destroyed? What is your time table for the destruction of these mines?)*
- 4. What, if any, difficulties do you face in the destruction of your stockpiled anti-personnel mines? If relevant, what are your priorities for external financial, technical or other assistance?*

Questions for consideration by States Parties which have recently fulfilled Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations

- 1. What steps did your State take to establish the type, quantity, and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed?*
- 2. What appropriate national and local capacities were established or used to meet your State's Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations?*
- 3. What methods were used to destroy the stockpiled mines, where were the mines destroyed and what safety and environmental standards were observed in the destruction process?*
- 4. How many mines of which types were destroyed and during which time period?*
- 5. What, if any, difficulties did your State face in the destruction of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines and how were these challenges overcome?*

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in a position to provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines

1. What is your State's position with respect to assistance for stockpile destruction? Do you have a budget or a fund to support stockpile destruction?
2. Since the 7MSP, what has your State done to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for stockpile destruction, responding to priorities for assistance as articulated by those States Parties in need?
3. Since the 7MSP, what has your State done to support the investigation and further development of technical solutions to overcome the particular challenges associated with destroying PFM mines?
4. What can / should be done to overcome challenges associated with providing assistance for stockpile destruction programmes?
5. Has your State encountered difficulties in identifying an internal funding source that could be used to support other States' stockpile destruction programmes?

NOTE: Algeria and Estonia, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, have put forward a **proposal to amend the Article 7 reporting format to facilitate reporting on stockpiled anti-personnel mines discovered and destroyed after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed**. (An unofficial version of this document can be obtained in English at www.8msp.org.) States Parties may wish to share views on the proposal during this agenda item.

15:00 – 18:00

11. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued):

(c) Clearing mined areas (continued).

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 mine clearance obligations

1. What is your State's plan to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control as soon as possible?
2. What progress has been made in the implementation of your State's national demining programme since the last time that an update was provided to the Standing Committee?
3. What work remains in order for your State to be in compliance with its obligation to have destroyed or ensured the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control?
4. What, if any, circumstances may impede the ability of your State to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control within ten years after entry into force of the Convention for your State? What is the prospective end-date for your State to have fully implemented Article 5?
5. What financial and technical means has your State dedicated to ensuring the fulfillment of your State's Article 5 obligations?
6. If mine action in your country is still conducted or partially managed by foreign organizations and/or international organizations, what are the steps that your State has taken to develop its national capacity?
7. What, if any, are your priorities for external assistance to support your State's fulfillment of its Article 5 obligations?

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in a position to provide assistance in implementation of Article 5 obligations

1. *What has your State done, since the 7MSP, to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for mine clearance and mine risk education?*
2. *Since the 7MSP, how has your State used the following means to provide support in the fulfillment of Article 5 obligations?*
 - a. *Dedicated funds to assist in the implementation of the Convention?*
 - b. *The integration of support to mine action into humanitarian programmes?*
 - c. *The integration of support to mine action into development programmes?*
 - d. *The integration of support to mine action into peace-building programmes?*
 - e. *The integration of support to mine action into peace support programmes?*
3. *What are your plans between now and the Second Review Conference to ensure the continuity and sustainability of resource commitments?*

NOTE: At the 7MSP, it was agreed “to work further on a voluntary template proposed as the basis to facilitate preparation and assessment of extension requests, with a view to its finalisation by the conclusion of the 2007 intersessional meetings, so to enable its voluntary implementation until its formal adoption at the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties.” On the basis of the update provided by Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies, it is the President-Designate’s understanding that delegations have had a great deal of time to share views on a revised proposal and that there is now general satisfaction with the revised draft template that had been presented to the 25-26 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee. (See document # APLC/MSP.8/2007/3 which can be found in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian at www.8msp.org.) Nevertheless, if delegations have views to share, Agenda Item 11(c) is the appropriate instance to share them.*

The President-Designate does not anticipate the need for any additional actions at the 8MSP with respect to this process. The President-Designate will, however, provide clarity and be transparent with the 8MSP in sharing his intentions regarding how he intends to operationalise this process.

TUESDAY 20 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 13:00

11. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued):
 - (c) Clearing mined areas (continued).

See above.

15:00 – 18:00

12. Informal discussions on practical ways to overcoming challenges in implementing Article 5.

In the initial ideas paper presented to the April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention by the President-Designate, it was noted that, with respect to Article 5, the 8MSP should not overly dwell on procedural aspects but rather give due attention to actual implementation of Article 5. It was therefore proposed that one three-hour time block be set aside for an informal and interactive discussion to highlight practical positive experiences gained in overcoming Article 5 implementation challenges. It is the President-Designate’s intention to structure this session as follows:

Topic #1: Accelerating the implementation of Article 5: Practical and efficient means to release mined areas

The Convention defines a “mined area” as “an area which is dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of mines.” In order for a State Party to have fulfilled its obligations under Article 5, it must have assured with confidence that all “mined areas” that it reports are no longer dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines. It is sometimes assumed that the only way of achieving this state is through physical clearance of all such areas. However, history has demonstrated that demining operators have been spending approximately 98 percent of their capacities clearing areas where there are no mines. What are more efficient and productive ways of releasing land? How can this be done in a manner that ensures with confidence that areas are not or no longer dangerous?

- *Presentation by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Norwegian People’s Aid on the range of actions that can be taken to release land, the benefits of such approaches and some of the challenges.*
- *Presentation by [-----] on the actual use of various land release methods in its national context.*
- *Open discussion. During this discussion, States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 may wish to respond to the following questions:*
 - *Is the application of approaches to releasing land through means other than simply physical clearance relevant or potentially relevant to your State?*
 - *What practices, if any, does your State use to reduce the size of "mined areas" through methods other than physical clearance?*
 - *Does your State have a policy or follow a certain practice for canceling areas previously considered to have been "mined areas"?*

Topic #2: Ensuring a sustainability of resources to implement Article 5

The Nairobi Action Plan saw States Parties in the process of complying with Article 5 commit to “make their problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance known (...) while specifying what resources they themselves have contributed to fulfill their Article 5 obligations.” In addition, States Parties in a position to do so committed to “act upon their obligations under Article 6(3) and 6(4) to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs” including by “ensuring the continuity and sustainability of resource commitments.” At the April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, over 20 States Parties noted that obtaining external resources was a challenge. How can States Parties fulfill their commitments under the Nairobi Action Plan that relate to cooperation in the full implementation of Article 5?

- *What steps can a donor State Party take to ensure a sustainable resource flow? Presentation by Australia*
- *What factors affect donor decisions? Presentation by Norway*
- *What can mine-affected States Parties do to sustain a resource flow from both domestic and external sources? Presentation by Jordan*
- *The European Commission’s mainstreamed support for mine action: What are the implications for mine-affected States Parties? Presentation by the European Commission*
- *Is there donor fatigue? Presentation by Tajikistan*
- *Open discussion. During this discussion, delegations may wish to respond to many of the same questions dealt with by the five presenters, as well as some others, including:*
 - *What steps can a donor State Party take to ensure a sustainable resource flow?*
 - *What factors affect donor decisions?*

- *If your State has provided support to others in the past to implement Article 5, at what level will your State continue to do so in the future?*
- *What can mine-affected States Parties do to sustain a resource flow from both domestic and external sources?*
- *If your State has received support from others in the past to implement Article 5, are there signs that external support will be sustained at a level necessary for you to promptly implement Article 5*

WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 13:00

11. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued):

(c) Clearing mined areas (continued);

See above.

(d) Assisting the victims.

Questions for consideration by States Parties which have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors

1. *What further progress has your State made in ensuring that the victim assistance objectives you have established will provide both a meaningful improvement in the quality of daily lives of mine survivors and other people with disabilities in your State by the end of 2009 and will ensure that this progress can be measured? That is, are your objectives SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound?*
2. *Can you provide specific examples of the engagement of relevant ministries in the processes of establishing victim assistance objectives and developing and/or implementing subsequent plans of action? How have other relevant actors been involved in these processes?*
3. *Can you provide specific examples of progress in achieving victim assistance objectives that are integrated into your broader health care and social service systems, rehabilitation programmes and legislative and policy frameworks?*

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in a position to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors

1. *Since the 7MSP, has your State provided assistance from specialized mine action or post-conflict funds to or through organizations whose efforts are intended to specifically target landmine survivors and other war wounded with a view to assisting any of the 24 States Parties to the Convention which have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of mine victims?*
2. *Since the 7MSP, has your development agency been engaged in broader bilateral development cooperation with any of the 24 States Parties to the Convention which have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of mine victims?*
3. *With respect to one or more bilateral cooperation relationships between your State and the 24 States Parties in question, can you provide examples or case studies of how your development agency's may ultimately advance the well being of landmine survivors enhancing / building capacity in / delivering programmes and services with respect to:*
 - a. *health care data collection (particularly injury surveillance)*
 - b. *emergency and ongoing medical care*
 - c. *physical rehabilitation*
 - d. *psychological support and social reintegration*
 - e. *economic reintegration*
 - f. *legal and policy frameworks to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities?*

4. *What is the policy of your development agency as it concerns disability and development programming?*

15:00 – 18:00

11. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued):

- (d) Assisting the victims (continued);

See above.

- (e) Other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims:

- (i) Cooperation and assistance;

Delegations may wish to provide updates or share views on cooperation and assistance.

- (ii) Transparency and the exchange of information.

Information that States Parties which have retained anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 3 may wish to consider sharing:

1. *The quantity and type of mines retained and the manner in which the number of mines has changed since it was recorded in the 7MSP Geneva Progress Report.*
2. *The purposes for which retained mines have been used and the results of this use, including for example:*
 - *the mine detection, clearance or destruction techniques that have been / are being developed;*
 - *the mine detection, clearance or destruction training that has been carried out;*
 - *the number of personnel trained and to what standard.*
3. *Plans for the further development of mine detection, clearance or detection techniques and further training which would result in the use of mines retained under Article 3.*

In addition, delegations may wish to provide other updates or share views with respect to transparency and the exchange of information.

THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 13:00

11. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued):

- (e) Other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims (continued):

- (iii) Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance;

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in the process of developing and adopting legislative measures in accordance with Article 9

1. *What measures have been taken to disseminate information regarding the Convention's prohibitions to your State's armed forces and its military academies?*
2. *What measures have been taken to make adjustments, in light of the Convention's prohibitions, to the training of your State's armed forces and in the development of training bulletins?*

3. *What measures have been taken to harmonise your State's armed forces' standing operating procedures and military doctrine with the Convention's obligations?*
4. *What measures have been taken to issue directives to police forces regarding preventing and suppressing prohibited acts?*

In addition, delegations may wish to provide other updates or share views with respect to preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance.

(iv) Implementation Support.

Delegations may wish to provide updates or share views with respect to implementation support.

In addition with respect to the matter of implementation support, in keeping with tradition, eight States Parties will be proposed to serve as new Co-Rapporteurs between the end of the Eight and Ninth Meetings of the States Parties. As well, on the basis of discussions with interested delegations the President-Designate has proposed that these meetings be held the week of 2-6 June 2008.

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

In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, States Parties may consider "matters arising from the reports submitted under the provisions of the Convention."

14. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5.

In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, States Parties may consider "decisions related to submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5". As there is one Meeting of the States Parties remaining before the deadlines for the first States Parties which may need to make a submission as provided for in Article 5, it is not expected that any decisions would need to be taken at the 8MSP.

15. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8.

In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, States Parties may consider "submissions of States Parties under Article 8".

15:00 – 18:00

16. Date, duration and location of the next Meeting of the States Parties.

At the informal meeting on 28 August convened by the President-Designate, there was a general sense that 24-28 November 2008 would be suitable dates for the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) in Geneva. In addition, it is proposed that Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland be designated President of the 9MSP.

17. Any other business.
18. Consideration and adoption of the final document.
19. Closure of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties.