



FEBRUARY 2019

# Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

## President's corner

Norway will preside over the Fourth Annual Pledging Conference with the aim to commit resources to the Sponsorship Programme and the Convention's ISU. All Parties are also invited to make pledges towards mine action. The Conference takes place,

**Tuesday 26 February 2019**

**13:00-15:00 – Room XI, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

\* Light lunch to be served at 12:30

The Conference will be opened by **H.E. Audun Halvorsen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway** and chaired by the Convention President.

On **Friday 1 March**, join the **Convention President** in a panel discussion on,

**20 years of protection: Celebrating the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty**

Featuring the High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet and UNHCR Division of International Protection's Deputy Director Shahrzad Tadjbakhsh.

**Room XXII, Building E, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

\* Anniversary cake and refreshments at 10:00



Cooperation on border clearance is of the utmost importance to effectively deal with cross-border contamination. Cambodia and Thailand carry out efforts in this regard. The Convention President seized the opportunity to reinforce this message during a recent visit to the Thai-Cambodia border. Reach the Convention's Presidency via email:

[mineban@mfa.no](mailto:mineban@mfa.no)



As the sun sets on 1 March, Geneva's iconic *Jet d'eau* will be illuminated in blue to mark the 20 years since the Convention entered into force. Join us at **Bains de Paquis at 18:00**.

The **20 years of action** towards a mine-free world provides us with an opportunity to apply lessons learnt towards achieving the 2025 mine-free ambition.

The day also serves to launch the *Road to Oslo* with the ultimate goal to meet at the **Oslo Review Conference** in November in Norway to renew our commitment to implementation.

#20YrsLandmineBan  
#20YrPartnership  
#MineBanTreaty20

#OsloRevCon





# Convention community board



## Synergies between Committees

On 14 February, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance (Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and Chair **Sweden**), and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Austria, Canada, Colombia and Chair the **Netherlands**), merged forces and planned joint action to better support States Parties' implementation of Convention obligations including through strategic individualised approaches.



## Communications

Convention partners -- including Norway, Switzerland, the European Union, ICBL, ICRC, HI, UNMAS, UNODA and the GICHD -- are joining efforts to commemorate the 20 years since the Convention entered into force and pave the *Road to Oslo*. Stay tuned!



## Reporting and clearance

During the Mine Action National Directors Meeting, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation Chair, the Netherlands, participated in a panel on innovation in mine action technology together with France and UNMAS.

This was an opportunity to highlight yet again that States Parties to the Convention must report and address anti-personnel mines of an improvised within the framework Convention obligations. Find out more on [Transparency and the exchange of information](#).

## Encouraging news!



Congratulations to the indigenous community of Kwet Wala in Colombia for having been declared free of all known mined areas and to [Descontamina Colombia](#) and partners Canada, Netherlands, USA and HALO Trust for their achievement. Photo, Alto Comisionado para la Paz.

Photo below, an all-female demining team from the Delvon Assistance for Social Harmony (DASH), a Sri Lankan non-profit demining organisation employing local populations “with emphasis given to widows and other female-headed households.”



Action 21 of the Maputo Action Plan,

“States Parties in a position to provide assistance and those seeking to receive assistance, where relevant and to the extent possible, will enter into partnerships for completion, with partners specifying their responsibilities to each other, articulating age- and gender-sensitive time-bound objectives and targets...”



## Ethiopia



The Ethiopian Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Labour and Social Affairs met with the Convention ISU and the Ethiopian Campaign to Ban Landmines to continue Ethiopia's process of drafting a request for extension of its mine clearance deadline under Article 5. Once the request is received it will be [posted here](#).

## Sri Lanka

In its first Article 7 transparency report presented in November 2018, Sri Lanka declared having a responsibility for a significant number – hundreds or thousands – of landmine survivors. With Sri Lanka there are now [30 States Parties having declared such obligation](#). Sri Lanka is also a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



## Yemen

Through a collaborative effort that has included meeting with the Committee on Article 5 implementation, Yemen continues the process of preparing a request to extend its mine clearance deadline under the Convention.

The first meeting between Yemeni officials, UNDP, and the Convention ISU Director took place in Djibouti (photo below). Once the request is received it will [be posted here](#).



Photo above, on the margins of the National Directors Meeting in Geneva, the delegation of Yemen met with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and ISU.

### Upcoming deadlines

- The following States Parties have Article 5 deadlines in 2020; some of them will submit by **31 March 2019**, requests to extend their mine clearance deadlines:
  - [Argentina](#)
  - [Cambodia](#)
  - [Chad](#)
  - [Chile](#)
  - [Eritrea](#)
  - [Ethiopia](#)
  - [Tajikistan](#)
  - [Yemen](#)

- **30 April:** Article 7 transparency reports are due. Reports from Algeria and El Salvador are already [available here](#).



In Ethiopia, the Norwegian Presidency met with the UN Special Representative to the African Union Hannah Tetteh to discuss among others, mine action. In the photo, the Convention President displays the African Union's Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War Strategic Framework. Reach the Convention's Presidency via email:

[mineban@mfa.no](mailto:mineban@mfa.no)





## European Union Council Decision Project Implementation Updates



### Victim assistance,

- **Jordan:** HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein will be the Chair of the upcoming Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Landmines and other Explosive Remnants of War. *Fostering Partnerships* will take place in Amman, in September. [Save the date!](#) More information to follow.
- **Iraq:** Participants of the National Stakeholders Dialogue on Victim Assistance are providing feedback to the Directorate of Mine Action on the meeting's final report. The outcome document will feed into regional discussions seeking to develop an inclusive National Action Plan on Victim Assistance.



Photo above, Tomas Reyes, Head of Political Section of the EU Delegation to Iraq and Essa Alfayadh Iraq's DMA Director discuss the Dialogue's final report and follow up. The various regional workshops that will feed into the Action Plan will be supported by Iraq and partners including the European Union.

### #20YrPartnership highlight:

Photo above, in 2013 Hungary, with support of Croatia and the European Union, declared having fulfilled its Article 5 obligation. [Read more here.](#)



If you have not yet done so, catch this 3-min video to find out more on the National Stakeholder Dialogue on Victim Assistance that took place in Baghdad. [Click here to view it.](#)

This newsletter has been prepared by the Convention's ISU thanks to support provided by the European Union. Share your stories with the Convention community at: [press@apminebanconvention.org](mailto:press@apminebanconvention.org). Find official information about the Convention on [www.apminebanconvention.org](http://www.apminebanconvention.org) and informally through,



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