

MARCH 2019

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

**On 1 March** Convention partners gathered around the world to commemorate 20 years of action towards a mine-free world. Convention President Norway, hosted events at United Nations in Geneva and New York with among others the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and UNHCR.

In Geneva, **Human Rights High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet** spoke of the importance of the Convention and its approach to victim assistance which “has shown unambiguously how an international convention can result in greater respect for, and protection of, fundamental rights. Its human rights-based approach is key part of its legacy”, she said. Over 30 delegations participated in the event.



Convention friends also faced the cold and wind at an open air ceremony before the iconic *Jet d'eau* in Geneva. The fountain was illuminated in blue to commemorate 20 years of action, remember those fallen victim to mines and recall the work that remains to be done to achieve the mine-free ambition.

Participants included the Mayor of the City of Geneva, and Ambassadors and representatives of Austria, Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, ICRC, ICBL, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNODA, and the Convention on Cluster Munitions' Secretariat.



20 Years of Action



#20YrsLandmineBan #20YrPartnership #MineBanTreaty20



# President's corner

## Cooperation and Assistance



Norway has announced it will provide NOK60 million (over €6 million) to Sri Lanka via partners HALO Trust and NPA. "This year, Norway holds the presidency of the Mine Ban Convention, and intends to help Sri Lanka achieve this important goal," said Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Marie Eriksen Sørreide referring to Sri Lanka's ambition to reach its mine-free goal by 2021. Read more [here](#).



## Pledging Conference



On 26 February, Norway led the Fourth Pledging Conference opened by H.E. Audun Halvorsen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; 41 delegations participated including 31 States Parties. The ISU and Sponsorship Programme received a number of contributions including from mine-affected States Parties **Mozambique and Sri Lanka**. Download videos and photos of the conference [here](#), and find statements and final report [here](#).

## Important upcoming dates

#OsloRevCon

- **3 April:** Informal meeting in Geneva to provide practical and substantive information about the Oslo Review Conference and its preparatory process.
- **4 April:** International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action – Norway, UNMAS, University of Geneva, ICBL and UNODA to [host a public discussion](#) on the need to "Take action for a safer world". Norway will also participate in the unveiling of a GICHD public photo exhibit in Geneva. "Life of Mine" on display until 5 May. [View the exhibit virtually](#).



**Next on the President's agenda:** From 8-11 April, Ambassador Brattskar will visit the Balkan region to participate in the [Symposium on Mine Action in Slano](#), Croatia, and visit the mine clearance programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Reach the Convention's Presidency via email: [mineban@mfa.no](mailto:mineban@mfa.no).



## Action 17, Maputo Action Plan

"All States Parties will seize every opportunity to raise awareness of the imperative to address the needs and guarantee the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner, including by engaging in the work of international, regional and national human rights, health care, labour and other fora, instruments and domains."





## Convention community board

### Ecuador

Ecuador which has a 2022 mine clearance deadline has indicated it can meet its goal with the appropriate international assistance and support. The Director of the national authority, CENDESMI [Veronica Bustamante](#) and Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs authorities - seen here below - hope that an individualised approach could be a step towards further cooperation and assistance.



Photo top page, Engineering Battalion 68 "COTOPAXI" and Commander Col. Romel Vargas fly the Convention flag in Quito, Ecuador.

### Chile

Chile has announced that in 2018 it had destroyed 6,310 anti-personnel mines representing 88.66% of completion rate. In addition, [the National Demining Commission \(CNAD\)](#), in coordination with the Canine Training Brigade of the Investigation Police, carried out for the first time technical demining work with mine detection dogs in the Arica region bordering with Peru. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, Vice Admiral Rodrigo Álvarez and CNAD's Executive Secretary Col. Andrés Cáceres congratulated Battalion Commanders and Humanitarian Demining Units for their work. Congratulations!



Chile photos courtesy, CNAD

#### 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 deadlines:
  - [Argentina \(submitted\)](#)
  - [Cambodia \(submitted\)](#)
  - [Chad](#)
  - [Chile](#)
  - [Eritrea](#)
  - [Ethiopia](#)
  - [Tajikistan \(submitted\)](#)
  - [Yemen \(submitted\)](#)
- **30 April:** Article 7 transparency reports are due

### Colombia

The Convention's ISU Director met in Bogotá with national authorities and relevant organisations to support Colombia in the process of developing a request to extend Colombia's mine clearance deadline. Late in 2018, the mine action programme was relocated to the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, Miguel Ceballos, featured here with Martha Hurtado the new Director of the Colombian mine action programme Descontamina.



### South-South Cooperation: Peru-Chile

A team of CONTRAMINAS and the Peruvian Army's Humanitarian Demining Unit visited mine clearance operations in the highlands of the Arica and Parinacota, and Quebrada Escritos regions in Chile, to learn more about manual and mechanical demining procedures and equipment used in these particularly arid border regions.



### Angola

Have you read Angola's Mine Action Programme first newsletter!? [Find the first issue here](#) and keep up to date on Angola's efforts.



**ANGOLA  
MINE ACTION  
PROGRAMME**

**2019-2025**

February 2019



## Cambodia



On 27 March Cambodia [submitted a request to extend its mine clearance deadline](#). The Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) was supported in the request process by UNDP, ISU and other stakeholders.

## Thailand



In March, the Thai Mine Action Centre (TMAC) Director held a visit to NPA clearance areas in Chanthaburi and Trat Provinces bordering with Cambodia – as seen above. ISU and partners currently support Thailand's drafting of an updated work plan due for submission on 30 April 2019.

## European Union Council Decision Project Implementation Update



### Victim Assistance



Have you saved the date yet? Earlier in March, the Jordanian Ambassador to the UN in Geneva H.E. Saja Majali and Head of the EU Delegation in Geneva H.E. Walter Stevens together with the ISU Director sent a save-the-date reminder to States Parties and not party and relevant international and non-governmental organisations to attend the ***Fostering Partnerships conference from 10-12 September in Amman***.

The Conference will be chaired by HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein with participation of the Convention President and global lead figures on victim assistance and disability rights. Find the save-a-date announcement and read more about it here. (Photos below show HRH and other leading VA and disability experts at the previous global conference held in Colombia in 2014. *Bridges between Worlds* was also sponsored by the European Union.)

The Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance, H.E. Amadeu da Conceição Ambassador of **Mozambique** to the UN in Geneva presented the work of the VA Committee and concept of the upcoming ***Fostering Partnerships*** conference before the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at their 2019 opening session as seen above.

The Chair also introduced the conference and work of the Convention before the 40th Session of the Human Rights Council on Disabilities as pictured below.



This newsletter has been prepared by the Convention's ISU thanks to support provided by the European Union. Find official information about the Convention on [www.apminebanconvention.org](http://www.apminebanconvention.org) and informally through:



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