



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
December 2019 Special Edition

The work of the Convention in 2019 culminating with the Oslo Review Conference was led by Norway. The *Oslo Action Plan 2020-204* is innovative, includes a gender perspective, elevates mine risk education to prevent new casualties, and challenges States to increase the pace of survey and mine clearance.

**Oslo Review Conference
on a Mine-Free World**

The Conference concluded a week of work in Norway with the adoption of a global plan of action to address the threat of anti-personnel mines and assist the victims.

Over 100 delegates representing 105 States (including 13 not party) and over 3 dozen international and non-governmental organisations – including mine survivors in representation of mine-affected communities – met in Oslo where this humanitarian instrument was adopted back in 1997.

The Conference was opened and closed by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Marie Eriksen Sørdeide. In addition, Haakon, Crown Prince of Norway, Princess Astrid, Princess of Belgium and Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein from Jordan were featured at the opening ceremony that also included UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, ICRC Vice President Gilles Carbonnier and UNICEF Special Adviser Geert Cappelaere. Mine-affected communities and survivors were profiled during the session including by video and through an interview panel that included Alex Munyambabazi from Uganda and Selma Guso from Bosnia and Herzegovina.



“The objectives of the Convention – to save lives, protect civilians, assist victims and to enable sustainable development in affected areas - are more relevant than ever.



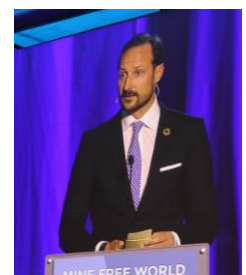
I encourage all States Parties to make maximum efforts in the coming five years, and reach our common goals as adopted through the *Oslo Political Declaration on a Mine-Free World*”, concluded Ambassador Hans Brattskar, as Norway concluded its presidency.



Oslo Political Declaration

We, the States Parties, commit to intensifying our efforts to complete our respective timebound obligations with the urgency that the completion work requires. We aspire to meet these goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025. The Oslo Action Plan 2019-2024 will be an essential tool towards the fulfilment of this ambition.

Find the *Oslo Action Plan*, Oslo Political Declaration and Review Conference information on: www.OsloReviewConference.org



Mine clearance extension requests granted



Nigeria

During the Conference, Nigeria – which had declared itself free of mines in 2011– stated it has been experiencing the “tragic consequences of the production and use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature by non-state actors especially in the North Eastern region, causing internal displacement, loss of lives and properties.”

With Nigeria, the number of States Parties that have declared mined areas under their jurisdiction or control climbed to 33 from 32. With Nigeria, there are now 12 countries in Africa that have declared obligations under Article 5.

<http://bit.ly/Nigeria-Statement>



- ✓ Argentina until 1 March 2023.
- ✓ Cambodia until 31 December 2025
- ✓ Chad until 1 January 2025.
- ✓ Eritrea until 31 December 2020.
- ✓ Ethiopia until 31 December 2025.
- ✓ Tajikistan until 31 December 2025.
- ✓ Yemen until 1 March 2023.

Decisions included the submission of periodic updated work plans as well as a number of concrete commitments. The Decisions can be found here: <http://bit.ly/OsloRevConDecisions>

Somalia

In the margins of the Review Conference, the Government of Somalia presented the draft Somali Disability and Victim Assistance National Action Plan which will now go on consultations with relevant stakeholders. The Plan was developed with support of various stakeholders including UNMAS, and received vast input from national stakeholders. It seeks to integrate VA efforts in wider disability rights contexts under the Convention of the States Parties to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



Photo above (l-r), Director General of the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development Deeq S. Yusuf; Deputy Minister of Somalia’s Internal Security H.E. Abdinasir Said Muse; UNMAS Director Agnes Marcaillou; SEMA Director Dahir A Abdulle; and, Hussain I. Ahmed UNMAS Somalia.

VA Experts Meeting



In Oslo, a meeting of victim assistance experts took place under the auspices of the Committee on Victim Assistance chaired by **Mozambique**, and members **Belgium and Italy** (seen in photo at right). “Support for victims of mines and other persons with disabilities is not about special rights for those affected, it is about enjoying the same rights that we are all entitled to. It is not a question of persons with disabilities having different needs than others, it is precisely because we all have the same needs for education, health, safety, care and inclusion that we must increase our efforts,” said Norwegian Minister of International Development Dag Inge Ulstein who kicked off the meeting with UN Sec.General’s Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility María Soledad Cisternas Reyes and the Convention Special Envoy HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, as seen in the photo above. [More info here.](#)



Action 7 of the Oslo Action Plan

“States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance, where feasible, to other States Parties in developing, updating or implementing their national strategies and work plans to fulfil their respective Convention obligations. Where possible, they will enter into multi-year partnerships and provide multi-year funding.”

HRH Prince Harry

After his trip to Angola to visit mine clearance carried out by HALO Trust, HRH Prince Harry sent a message of encouragement to the Oslo Review Conference to “do more now if our goal is to be reached and mission considered successful [...] Our goal is to make this a world free of landmines. So let’s make this a reality”, he added calling States Parties to reenergise efforts to meet their commitments.



Botswana

At the Review Conference, Botswana –which had retained AP mines for permitted purposes–, announced that on 18 November 2019, it had:

“Successfully destroyed the last 920 anti-personnel mines for all times. At this point we can proudly say that [Botswana] no longer holds anti-personnel mines in its inventory”.



Maj. Gen. Mpho Mophuting of the Ministry of Defence of Botswana also thanked Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) for its support in the destruction efforts.

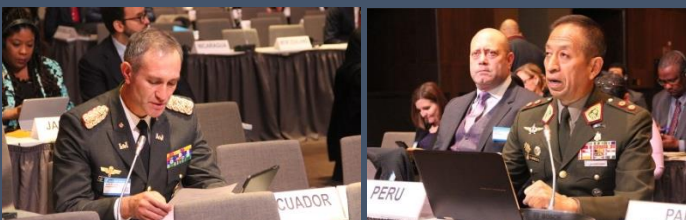
Oslo Political Declaration

4. The successful implementation of the Convention has been underpinned by a unique spirit of cooperation and transparency, including strong partnerships with international organisations and civil society. We remain committed to continue fostering and strengthening these partnerships to achieve our common goals.



Ecuador, Peru

In a joint statement, Ecuador and Peru which once laid mines along their common border have increased joint border demining as they seek to meet their mine clearance obligation; both called on the international community to support their efforts to meet their deadlines. The Organization for American States (OAS) stated that it will support their joint efforts and called on its Member States and others to support Ecuador’s and Peru’s efforts. [View the OAS statement here.](#)



Chile

After nearly two decades of work, Chile has announced that **it could soon be free of all known mine contamination.**

“We have removed 93.85% or 171,433 mines that had been emplaced



in the Chilean territory,” said the Director of the Chilean Mine Action Centre, Col Juan Lopez Demuth. “There remain 10,381 mines in 12 mined zones of the original 195 which still require clearing. We remain hopeful to be able to do so by 1 March 2020 thus contributing to the Convention’s ambition of a mine-free world by 2025.” [See the video statement here.](#)



As 2019 comes to an end, the ISU is grateful for the support received from,

Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Slovenia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and United Kingdom,

for the ISU's annual work plan. Find here the <http://bit.ly/ISU-5Yr-WorkPlan> and the <http://bit.ly/ISU-2019-InterimReport>



European Union Council Decision Project Implementation Update

Lao PDR



In October, Lao PDR welcomed an EU-sponsored universalization visit led by HRH Prince Mired. In November, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E Thongpane Savanphet and MFA Director General Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo attended the Oslo Review Conference and re-confirmed Lao PDR's commitment to the Convention's aims. Find the video statement from the [Conference here](#). Take three minutes, **see the video of the mission here!** <http://bit.ly/LaoPDR-Univ>

Briefing in Oslo



The second year of implementation of the EU Council Decision in favour of implementation of the Convention concluded on the last day of the Oslo Review Conference. To inform on progress, a briefing was held on the margins of the meeting with **South Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Senegal and Uganda** presenting updates on opportunities and challenges encountered since their respective Dialogues, and ISU Director informing on HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium's universalization mission to the **Lebanese Republic**. (Check out the video here! <http://bit.ly/Lebanon-Princess-Astrid>)

HRH Prince Mired briefed participants on his mission to **Lao PDR**, and chairing of the **Global Conference Fostering Partnerships** which sought to create strong national linkages between victim assistance efforts and those in wider disability rights contexts under the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**. Former CRPD Committee Chair and current Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility of the UN Sec. General Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes provided her perspectives on the Conference as did the **ICBL**.

South Sudan has finalized its draft National Disability Action Plan after kick starting efforts through a successful National Dialogue hosted by the **South Sudan National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)** and the **Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare**, sponsored by the European Union with support of the ISU. The Plan also seeks to address VA commitments adopted under the Oslo Action Plan. A Task Force composed of a number of government divisions and non-governmental organisations that attended the Dialogue will undertake four Review Sessions and a Validation Workshop in early 2020. These follow up meetings will be sponsored by the EU. Photo at right, in Oslo the EU and NMAA met to discuss follow-up support.

South Sudan

