

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

Oslo Review Conference
on a Mine-Free World



Save the Date! After a successful Second Preparatory Meeting on 18 September 2019, the President invites all concerned parties to two back-to-back informal meetings on

7 November 2019
14:00 – 17:30
UN Palais, Geneva, Room XVI

The 14:00–15:30 meeting will focus on matters concerning participation of delegations at the Review Conference. The 15:30–17:30 meeting turns to informal consultations on financial predictability and sustainability of UN assessed contributions.

President's corner



The Convention President signing the Maputo Declaration at the Third Review Conference in 2014

Renewing political commitment (high-level segment)

On Tuesday 26 November, under Agenda item 6, heads of delegations at the level of Minister or Deputy Minister are invited to deliver a statement outlining their vision for the future of the Convention and plans to support its implementation.

Following the statement, high-level delegates are invited and escorted to a nearby room to leave a message of renewed political commitment.

The rest of delegations are invited to deliver statements and/or sign the ceremonial Review Conference book on Friday 29 November as Agenda item 6 reopens.

Please note that [a side event calendar](#) is now online and that all [documents](#) for the Fourth Review Conference (including those related to financial matters) are being uploaded as they become available on:

www.OsloReviewConference.org



New funds

Norway has announced it will donate NOK5.5 billion for humanitarian aid in 2020 for protection; this includes sexual and gender-based violence, landmines and other explosive remnants of war. **Takk Norge!**



Committee on Article 5 Implementation



On 22 August, **Netherlands** as Chair of the Committee that includes **Austria, Canada, and Colombia**, addressed the CCW Meeting of Experts Amended Protocol II (Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices).

“In relation to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) the Convention and APII are not mutually exclusive. A certain device can fall under the scope of both, the Convention and the Protocol, with their respective obligations for either States Parties or High Contracting Parties”. [Find the video statement here.](#)



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina is celebrating that the municipality of Zavidovici / Zepce has been recently declared mine-free.

Norwegian's People Aid (NPA) completed mine clearance operations with support provided by Germany and Norway. Photos, NPA.



Sri Lanka – Germany



Following Sri Lanka's accession to the Convention, the German Federal Office contributed €2million to support Sri Lanka's mine-free goal by 2020 through national operator Delvon Assistance For Social Harmony – DASH and MAG, the latter seen here above during a visit of the German Embassy in Sri Lanka.

Ukraine



Andriivk village in eastern Ukraine has been declared mine-free. Congratulations to HALO Trust and donors that supported the work including Belgium, European Union, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America. Photos, HALO Trust

While this is good news, the Danish Refugee Council-Danish Demining Group (DRC-DDG), in partnership with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) presented the results of their "Mine Victim Assistance Needs" assessment report indicating that since 2014 over 100 children have been injured or killed by mines and other deadly remnants of war. [Find out here](#) what is being done to assist and prevent casualties.

Sri Lanka – Japan



Japan has donated USD1.2 million to the SKAVITA Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Project (SHARP) and HALO Trust for humanitarian demining in northern Sri Lanka contributing to government efforts to make mine-contaminated areas safe again, enable resettlement of displaced persons, and promote development in the region. Photos, Japanese Embassy in Sri Lanka.

Serbia



Congratulations to STOP Mines and the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia which declared the municipality of Bujanovac free of mines.

Clearance was carried out with national funds matched by ITF Enhancing Human Security with finance provided by the United States of America and Republic of Korea. [More info here.](#) Photos, SMAC.



Convention Preamble

“... Stressing the role of public conscience in furthering the principles of humanity as evidenced by the call for a total ban of anti-personnel mines and recognizing the efforts to that end undertaken by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and numerous other non-governmental organizations around the world ...”

United Kingdom – Angola

Twenty-two years after Princess Diana walked through a minefield in Angola being cleared by HALO Trust, her son Prince Harry, retraced her footsteps. The visit highlighted the connection between humanitarian mine clearance, development and conservation. “By clearing the landmines we can help this community find peace, and with peace comes opportunity,” said Prince Harry as he drew attention to a crisis that has spanned generations. Photos, HALO Trust.



Tajikistan



Tajikistan was hard at work to provide additional information to support its extension request submitted on 31 March 2019,

After making use of the Individualised Approach event co-hosted with the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance during the May 2019 Intersessional Meetings, Tajikistan prepared a high-level forum in Dushanbe. These efforts will feed into Tajikistan’s new Strategy Plan 2021-2025 towards its goal of becoming mine-free by 2025.

Iraq

In 2018, the 17MSP requested Iraq to submit by “the Fourth Review Conference, an updated mine clearance work plan”. For that purpose, relevant authorities and stakeholders supported by the Convention’s ISU, met in Erbil to support Iraq’s efforts in work plan preparations.

The Directorate for Mine Action at the Ministry of Health has also been undertaking mine risk education outreach in Karbala, focusing in particular in reaching children and women in the area. Photo, DMAC.



Thailand no longer retains anti-personnel mines



Thailand has destroyed the 3,133 anti-personnel mines it had retained for permitted purposes under the Convention. The destruction ceremony in the eastern border province of Sa Kaeo was led by the Chief of Defence Forces on 6 August, before international supporters including Japan and the United States of America. Thailand had already fulfilled its Article 4 obligation destroying 335,843 anti-personnel mines in 2003. “Thailand is fully committed to clearing the remaining mines and expects to complete its mine clearance obligations by 2023,” said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Read [more here](#). Photos: (TMAC).



Over 60 representatives of mine-affected communities, national government, international and non-governmental organisations including those representing the rights of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities attended a three-day National Stakeholders Dialogue entitled, “Meeting the Needs of Mine Victims” which sought to kick-start the process to develop a National Action Plan on Victim Assistance.

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) and the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) hosted the Dialogue with support of the European Union, UNMAS and the ISU. Expert presenters included the Christian Blind Mission (CBM), Humanity and Inclusion, ICRC, ICBL-CMC, OVCI la Nostra Famiglia, South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms, and South Sudan Network of Women with Disability. Participants, many who travelled various days in order to attend the meeting, visited the OVCI Usratuna Rehabilitation Centre in Juba. Find more information here, <http://bit.ly/SouthSudan-VA-Dialogue>.



Jordan

From 9-12 September, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with support of the European Union hosted the *Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Mines and Other Explosive Remnants of War and Disability Rights: Fostering Partnerships*.

The Chair of the Conference, HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Husseini (below left), opened the meeting together with the Convention President (seen right), the Head of the EU Delegation to Jordan, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Disability and representing mine survivors, the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines.



Fostering Partnerships addressed fundamental questions on the provision of assistance to victims and fulfilment of their rights, and explored challenges and good practices in aligning efforts to meet Convention obligations with those under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Expert panellists contributed to discussions on key themes including on advancing VA integration into broader national policies and programmes; placing inclusion, gender and diversity at the centre of efforts; shaping policies and programmes through data collection; improving emergency response and protection, rehabilitation in mine-affected countries, psychological support, cooperation and assistance, social and economic inclusion; and measuring impact.



The Chairperson's Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations are to be presented in a side event at the Oslo Review Conference in November. In the meantime, view and download the photos here,

[http:// bit.ly/Fostering-Partnerships-Photos](http://bit.ly/Fostering-Partnerships-Photos)



Lebanon

Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium in her capacity as Special Envoy of the Convention met with the President and Minister of Defence of the Lebanese Republic, H.E. General Michel Aoun and H.E. Mr Elias Bou Saab respectively. During the meeting the Special Envoy encouraged Lebanon to take positive steps towards joining the Convention.



"In my visit with the President, I have encouraged the Lebanese Republic to engage with the work of the Convention including attending the upcoming Fourth Review Conference with positive news concerning concrete steps taken towards accession," added Her Royal Highness.

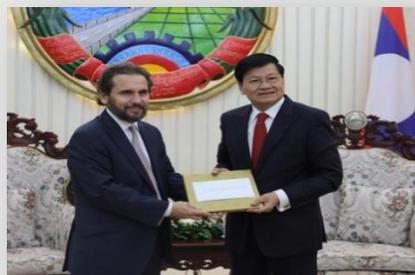
The delegation included the Convention Presidency represented by H.E. Leni Stenseth Ambassador of Norway in Lebanon, the Ambassador of Belgium in Lebanon H.E. Hubert Cooreman, and the ISU Director. The Convention Presidency invited Lebanon to attend Oslo at a high political level, while the task force invited Lebanon to submit a voluntary transparency report and put in place a moratorium on use, transfer and production of anti-personnel mines. Find out more on the mission including photos here,

<http://bit.ly/Lebanon-Universalization>



His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein in his role as Special Envoy visited Lao PDR engaging with high-ranking officials on the Convention and its norms.

Lao PDR

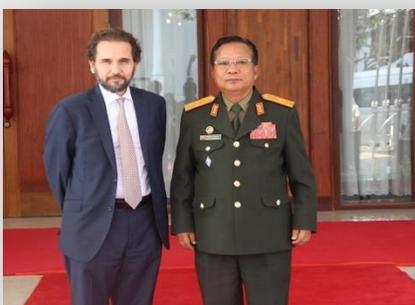


Prince Mired met with Prime Minister H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith, Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Thongpane Savanphet; Minister of Defence H.E. Lt. Gen. Chansamone Chanyalath; Minister of Labour and Social Welfare H.E. Khampheng Saysompheng, the latter responsible for unexploded ordnance clearance in Lao PDR.

The delegation which included the ISU Director and Brigadier General (Ret.) Mohammad Breikat, invited Lao PDR to submit a voluntary transparency report and put in place a moratorium on use, transfer and production of anti-personnel mines.

Find out more on the mission including photos here,

<http://bit.ly/Laos-Universalization>



This newsletter has been prepared by the Convention's ISU with support provided by the European Union. Send your story for consideration: isu@apminebanconvention.org. Find official information about the Convention on www.apminebanconvention.org and informally on:



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