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

14 December 2016

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Fifteenth Meeting

Santiago, 28 November - 1 December 2016

Final report

I. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction provides in article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2, that the States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention. At the Third Review Conference (Maputo, 23-27 June 2014), the States Parties agreed that, beginning in 2015, a Meeting of the States Parties will be convened each year at the end of November or beginning of December until the end of 2018.

2. The Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties held in Geneva from 30 November to 4 December 2015 decided to hold the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties in Santiago, Chile, during the week of 28 November 2016, and to elect the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, President of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties.¹ To prepare for the Fifteenth Meeting, in keeping with past practice, a provisional agenda and programme of work were presented at the 19-20 May 2016 informal intersessional meetings of the Convention. Based upon discussions at the meetings, it was the conclusion of the Chilean presidency that these documents were generally acceptable to the States Parties to be put before the Fifteenth Meeting for adoption. To seek views on matters of substance, an informal meeting was also convened in Geneva on 14 September 2016 to which all States Parties, States not parties and interested organizations were invited to participate.

II. Organization of the Meeting

3. The Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties was opened on 28 November 2016 by Heraldo Muñoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile and President of the Fifteenth Meeting. A high level opening ceremony featured a video address by the President of the Republic of Chile, Verónica Michelle Bachelet Jeria, and messages from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Antonio Prado; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), delivered by the Head of the ICRC Regional Delegation, Lorenzo Caraffi; the representative of the International Campaign to

¹ APLC/MSP.14/2015/33, paragraph 39.



Ban Landmines (ICBL) and landmine survivor, Jesús Martínez; the President of the Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Barbara Haering; as well as the Convention's Special Envoy, HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad Bin Zeid Al Hussein of Jordan.

4. A panel on Comprehensive Mine Action and Peace: Cooperating Towards a Mine-Free World was held as part of the opening ceremony, on 28 November 2016, with the participation of Julio Bravo, Director of International and Human Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mauricio González López, Ambassador on Multilateral Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Hans Brattskar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, and Steve Costner, Deputy Director Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

5. The Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties was chaired, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Hernando Muñoz, by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and other International organisations and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Marta Maurás. At the first plenary session, on 28 November 2016, the Fifteenth Meeting adopted its agenda, as contained in document APLC/MSP.15/2016/1/Rev.1, and its programme of work, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/2/Rev.2, as orally amended.

6. Also at the same first plenary session, Algeria, Canada, Ecuador, Ireland, Mexico, Senegal, Switzerland and Thailand were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Fifteenth Meeting. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of the Director of International and Human Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Julio Bravo, as Secretary-General of the Meeting. The Meeting also took note of the appointment, by the United Nations Secretary-General, of Peter Kolarov of the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) as Executive Secretary of the Meeting, and the appointment, by the President, of Juan Carlos Ruan, Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), as the President's Executive Coordinator.

III. Participation in the Meeting

7. The following States Parties participated in the Meeting: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

8. The following delegations participated in the Meeting as observers, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Meeting: China, India, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and United States of America.

9. In accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Rules of Procedure, the following international organizations and institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations attended

the Meeting as observers: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), European Union, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, International Committee of the Red Cross, Organization of American States (OAS), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

10. In accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure, the following other organizations attended the Meeting as observers: Center for International Stabilization and Recovery, Cleared Ground Demining, The HALO Trust, International Trust Fund – Enhancing Human Security (ITF), The Marshall Legacy Institute, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and Perigeo.

11. A list of all delegations and delegates to the Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.15/2016/INF.1.

IV. Work of the Meeting

12. The Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties held eight plenary sessions from 28 November to 1 December 2016. During the second and third plenary sessions, on 28 and 29 November 2016, States Parties and observer delegations delivered statements or submitted written declarations of a general nature.

13. At the second and third plenary sessions, the States Parties that had submitted requests for extensions in accordance with article 5, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Convention, Niger and Peru, presented their requests, the executive summaries of which are contained in documents APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.1 and APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.2, respectively. In addition, Ireland, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation presented analyses and/or observations relating to each request for extension to Article 5 deadline, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.3 and APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.4. At the same plenary sessions, Ecuador presented its extension request.

14. During its third through eighth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the operation and status of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention's goals and in the application of the Maputo Action Plan 2015-2019 and the Maputo+15 Declaration.

15. At the third and fourth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance. In particular, Thailand, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee presented the report of the Committee's work and its conclusions as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/7. Updates were provided by States Parties responsible for significant numbers of landmine survivors on their efforts to fulfil obligations and on the steps they have taken to implement the victim assistance actions of the Maputo Action Plan, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

16. At the fourth and fifth plenary sessions the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. In particular, Ireland, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee presented the report on the Committee's work as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/6, APLC/MSP.15/2016/6/Add.1/Rev.1, APLC/MSP.15/2016/6/Add.2, and APLC/MSP.15/2016/6/Add.3. Updates were provided by States Parties that are still in the process of clearing mined areas pursuant to article 5 of the Convention, as well as by other interested States and organisations. In addition, States Parties and organizations discussed the situation of Ukraine with respect to article 5 implementation.

17. At the fifth and sixth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. In particular, Switzerland, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee presented the report of the Committee's work and its conclusions and recommendations as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/3. States Parties and other interested States and organisations provided views on cooperation and assistance and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee.

18. At the sixth plenary session the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. In particular, the President, in her capacity as the Chair of the Committee presented the reports on the Committees' work, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/5. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organisation

19. Also in the context of the consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting discussed progress made and challenges that remain in destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines and considered, in particular, document APLC/MSP.15/2016/4, as presented by the President. Poland announced the completion of its article 4 obligations in advance of the established deadline. Updates were provided by State Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

20. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting discussed the status of the assessed contributions to the meetings of the States Parties to the Convention by States Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings pursuant to article 14 of the Convention and the budget deficit resulting from outstanding unpaid balances, as well as measures to ensure sustainable financing for the meetings. The Meeting recognized the efforts made by the Chilean Presidency to ensure that the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties takes place as planned despite the challenging financial situation.

21. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed the transparency reporting responsibilities of the States Parties pursuant to article 7 of the Convention.

22. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed actions that had been undertaken since the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties in the pursuit of the universalization of the Convention.

23. A panel on Gender and Mine Action was held during the seventh plenary session with the participation of the Minister of Women and Gender Equality of Chile, Claudia Pascual, the Assistant Director, Conventional Weapons Section, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Tanya Parkin, the Director of the Department of Mine Clearance of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, the representative of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Aisha Saeed, the Director of the Gender and Mine Action Programme, Ariana Calza Bini and the representative of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, Adriana Quiñonez.

24. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, recalling the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU" and the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties' decisions on "strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU", which instructed the ISU to propose and present every year a work plan and detailed yearly budget for the ensuing year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval, the Meeting considered the "Implementation Support Unit 2017 Work Plan and Budget", presented by the Director of the ISU and endorsed by the Coordinating Committee, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.5.

25. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, in recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, which tasked the ISU to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties and to submit an audited annual financial report for the previous year and a preliminary annual financial report for the present year to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting considered an “Interim report on the 2016 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and preliminary 2016 financial report” presented by the Director of the ISU, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/8, as well as the “Report of the independent auditor on the balance sheet and the expenditures and revenues statement of the Trust Fund for the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention” as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/MISC.1.

26. Also in the context of the consideration of the the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting considered the report of the Sponsorship Coordinator on the Sponsorship Programme. The Meeting noted the urgent need for more States Parties, which are in a position to do so, to invest in this Programme in 2017, to ensure broad participation in the 2017 intersessional meetings in Geneva and in the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in Vienna, Austria. The Meeting noted that continuing to give mine-affected States Parties a strong voice in the future direction of the Convention through the Sponsorship Programme is critical.

V. Decisions and Recommendations

27. The Meeting reaffirmed the determination of the States Parties to the Convention to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines and their aspiration to meet the goals of the Convention to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

28. In the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and its universalization, the Meeting called upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Convention as soon as possible. The Meeting also decided to establish an informal working group on the universalization of the Convention.

29. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that had indicated having a responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors, as well as the activity report of the Committee on Victim Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/6, and took note of the conclusions contained therein. In particular, the Meeting reconfirmed the States Parties’ commitment to further strengthen and advance victim assistance, meet the needs and guarantee the rights of mine victims. The Meeting also took note of the conclusions of the Committee on Victim Assistance, with particular reference to encouraging the exchange of information and experiences, where applicable, regarding how victim assistance is dealt with under different conventions.

30. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the report of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/6, and took note of the conclusions contained therein.

31. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and taking into account the analyses presented by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation of the requests submitted under article 5 of the Convention and the requests themselves, the Meeting took the following decisions:

Decision on the request submitted by Niger

(a) The meeting assessed the request submitted by Niger for an extension of Niger's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing to grant the request for extension until 31 December 2020.

(b) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Niger had taken a number of measures to implement its obligations including through clearance and non-technical and technical survey efforts leading to the removal of suspicion of the presence of mines in five areas previously reported as suspected of containing mines. The Meeting further noted that Niger was taking a number of steps to prepare to address its remaining challenge.

(c) The Meeting noted the importance of the United Nation's International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS, in emphasising that evidence is required in order to define an area as either "suspected hazardous area" (i.e., an area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines) or "confirmed hazardous area" (i.e., an area known to contain anti-personnel mines).

(d) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as with its previous request, the present request does not contain a detailed annual work plan for clearance leading to completion with benchmarks for progress which would assist Niger and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. The Meeting further noted that monthly and annual projection could support Niger's efforts in mobilise financial and technical resources and that, as a result, Niger may find itself in a situation where it could proceed with implementation faster than the amount of time requested.

(e) In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger providing by 30 April 2017 a revised work plan containing a list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and monthly and annual projections of which areas would be dealt with during the period of extension.

(f) Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the success of the plan presented by Niger is contingent upon stable funding and challenges posed by the security situation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- (i) Progress made relative to the activities listed in its 2016-2020 work plan;
- (ii) Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- (iii) Efforts made to mobilize the necessary financial and technical support necessary to implement the work plan, and;
- (iv) External financing and technical assistance received as well as resources made available by the Government of Niger to support implementation

(g) Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Niger, further to providing updates relative to these benchmarks at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conference, providing updated information on an annual basis within its Article 7 transparency report. The Meeting further noted that the Guide to Reporting adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties may support Niger in reporting on progress in implementing the plan within its request.

Decision on the request submitted by Peru

(a) The meeting assessed the request submitted by Peru for an extension of Peru's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1, agreeing to grant the request for extension until 31 December 2024.

(b) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Peru has made steps to ensure that the objectives of the work plan of its initial extension request were achieved. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Peru has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes the ability of Peru to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is due to new information received concerning the existence of 138 mined areas located in Peruvian territory.

(c) The Meeting noted that, while the proposed extension seemed workable, the fact that Peru indicates that it will seek to develop enhanced processes of releasing land suggests that Peru may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested and that doing so could benefit both the Convention and Peru itself given the indication by Peru of the socio-economic benefits that will flow from demining.

(d) The Meeting noted the importance of the United Nation's International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS, in emphasising that evidence is required in order to define an area as either "suspected hazardous area" (i.e., an area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines) or "confirmed hazardous area" (i.e., an area known to contain anti-personnel mines).

(e) In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Peru providing by 30 April 2018 an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension containing information on the results of the activities to meet its strategic objectives, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organization, and an updated budget.

(f) Also in granting the request, the Meeting further noted that the Convention would benefit from Peru reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- (i) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in section 15 of its extension request;
- (ii) Results of efforts in the development of new land release policies and on their implementation;
- (iii) The outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Peru's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge and priorities for clearance;
- (iv) Efforts undertaken to reach out to international entities to achieve Peru's desirable outcome to conclude implementation well in advance of its requested extension deadline;
- (v) Resources made available by the Government of Peru and other entities to support implementation.

(g) Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Peru reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding Peru's implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and at Review Conferences. The Committee further noted the importance of Peru providing updated information on an annual basis within its Article 7 transparency report and noted that the "Guide to Reporting"² adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties may support Peru in reporting on progress in implementing the plan within its request for extension.

² APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.2.

Decision on the request submitted by Ecuador

32. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and taking into account the extension request submitted by Ecuador to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting took the following decision:

(a) The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Ecuador for an extension of Ecuador's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1.

(b) The Meeting noted that Ecuador had acted prudently by providing information on the special and unforeseen circumstances that prevented it from meeting its deadline and submitting a request for extension which would allow it to remain in compliance with the Convention and submit a request for extension in accordance with the process established by the States Parties.

(c) The Meeting noted that in order to function appropriately this process requires requests to be submitted nine months prior to the meeting during which they would be considered in order for an analysis of the request to be prepared and for a cooperative exchange between the requesting State and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to take place. The Meeting noted that the late submission of a request by Ecuador due to *force majeure* did not permit the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to carry out their mandate to analyse the request.

(d) In this context, the Meeting noted that Ecuador and the Convention as a whole would benefit from a full extension request process taking place, and agreed to grant Ecuador a three month extension until 31 December 2017. In addition, the Meeting requested that Ecuador submit a detailed request, in accordance with the established process, by 31 March 2017, in order for Ecuador and the States Parties to benefit from a cooperative exchange on the request.

Decision on Ukraine

33. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention the Meeting recognized the difficult situation in which Ukraine finds itself in since February 2014 with regard to Ukraine's mine clearance obligations under Article 5. The Meeting expressed serious concern that Ukraine is now in a situation of non-compliance with Article 5. The Meeting called on Ukraine to submit as soon as possible a request for extension in accordance with the process established by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties³. In this regard the Meeting welcomed the commitment by Ukraine to continue to engage with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.

34. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the report of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/3, and took note of the conclusions contained therein. The Meeting welcomed the recommendations contained in the Committee's report, as follows:

(a) In order to progress resolutely towards the aspiration to meet the goals of the Convention by 2025 a more comprehensive approach is needed. The Committee will continue its efforts to develop this approach and present its preliminary observations at the 2017 Intersessional Meetings and its related conclusions and recommendations at the 16MSP.

³ APLC/MSP.7/2016/L.3 and APLC/MSP.7/2006/5, paragraph 27.

(b) In order to better map challenges, the Committee recommends that States Parties make their implementation challenges known through their article 7 reports (under the heading *cooperation and assistance*). The Committee further recommends that it sends a reminder letter to all States Parties and raises awareness through any other appropriate means well in advance of the article 7 report submission deadline (30 April of each year) and continues the mapping of challenges for the purpose of individual engagement with States Parties.

(c) In order to better contribute to the aspiration to meet the goals of the Convention by 2025, the Committee recommends that States Parties engage on a voluntary basis - without infringing on agreed upon machinery and meetings - in individualized approaches as outlined in annex 1 of the Committee's report. The Committee stands ready to facilitate such meetings upon request by interested States Parties.

(d) In order to make best use of the Platform for Partnerships, States Parties are encouraged to provide new or updated information as well as to provide feedback on the utility of the platform on a regular basis. The Committee will continue engaging with States through an annual communication to all States Parties and raising awareness through any other appropriate means well in advance of the intersessional meeting and meetings of the States Parties/review conferences, asking for relevant inputs and that the relevant meetings allocate time to discuss the Platform for Partnerships.

(e) In order to ensure that the different committees advance their respective mandates coherently, enhanced coordination amongst them is required. The Committee will continue engaging in a systematic fashion with the other committees under the Convention.

35. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the activity report of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/5, and took note of the observations contained therein. The Meeting expressed concern about the allegations and instances of use of anti-personnel mines in different parts of the world.

36. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the announcement made by Poland on the completion of its article 4 obligations before the established deadline. The Meeting welcomed the updates provided by States Parties on the implementation of actions #5 to #7 of the Maputo Action Plan, in particular by States Parties that are in non-compliance with their respective article 4 obligations, Greece and Ukraine, and the Report on the status of implementation of article 4 (stockpile destruction), as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/4, and took note of the conclusions contained therein. The Meeting appealed to the States Parties which are in non-compliance with their article 4 obligations to intensify efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.

37. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting expressed concern on the persisting low level of national transparency reporting and reemphasized the benefits that could be obtained in applying the "Guide to reporting", as adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, and encouraged its use by the States Parties in implementing their article 7 obligations.

38. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting appreciated the efforts by the Chilean presidency, in cooperation with the United Nations and the ISU, to enhance communications and transparency on the financial status of the Convention with the view to secure the funds necessary for the holding of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties, as well as to improve the cost efficiency and the practices of the Meeting. The Meeting underlined the importance to ensure full compliance with article 14 obligations as well as to explore possible other measures that could reduce the costs and improve the efficiency of the meetings of the States Parties. The Meeting

called upon the States Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings to address issues arising from outstanding dues and from recently implemented United Nations financial accounting practices. The Meeting requested the States Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings of the States Parties to proceed with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment invoices have been received from the United Nations. The Meeting also decided to include the issue as an item in the agenda of the annual meetings of the States Parties.

39. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” and the relevant decision by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting approved the “Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2017”, as endorsed by the Coordinating Committee and contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.5. In the context of the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, the Meeting also approved the “Interim report on the 2016 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit”, contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/8, and the ISU’s 2015 audited financial statement, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/MISC.1.

40. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ relevant decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU” and on further exploring additional models of financing the ISU over the mid- and long-term, the Meeting recognized that new financial models have recently been put in place by the Convention, including such mechanisms as the annual pledging conference and the financial security buffer, as well as new financial models put in place under other relevant instrument. In this context, the Meeting considered that exploring other models at this time would be premature. The Meeting also commended the Chilean presidency for organizing, on 2 March 2016, a successful first high level pledging conference for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

41. The Meeting welcomed the interest expressed by States Parties to serve as new members of Committees and decided on the following membership of the Convention’s Committees:

(a) Article 5 Implementation: Costa Rica and Zambia (until the end of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Chile and Switzerland (until the end of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties);

(b) Victim Assistance: Colombia and Belgium (until the end of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Croatia and Ecuador (until the end of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties);

(c) Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: the Netherlands and Uganda (until the end of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Algeria and Canada (until the end of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties);

(d) Cooperative Compliance: Peru and Sweden (until the end of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Iraq and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (until the end of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties).

42. The Meeting agreed to hold the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in Vienna, Austria, the week of 18 to 22 December 2017 and adopted its estimated costs, as contained in APLC/MSP.15/2016/9. The Meeting further agreed to elect the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva, Thomas Hajnoczi, President of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, with his term running from the conclusion of the Fifteenth Meeting until the conclusion of the Sixteenth Meeting, as per the relevant decision of the Third Review Conference. The Meeting further noted with

appreciation the offer made by Afghanistan to preside over the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2018.

43. The Meeting agreed to set the dates of 2017 intersessional meetings for 8 and 9 June 2017 in Geneva.

VI. Documentation

44. A list of documents of the Fifteenth Meeting is contained in the annex to this report.

VII. Adoption of the final report

45. At its final plenary session, on 1 December 2016, the Meeting adopted its report, as contained in document APLC/MSP.15/2016/CRP.2, as orally amended.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.15/2016/1/Rev.1	Revised Provisional Agenda. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.15/2016/2/Rev.2	Revised Provisional programme of work. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.15/2016/3	Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. Submitted by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
APLC/MSP.15/2016/4	The Status of Implementation of Article 4 (stockpile destruction) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.15/2016/5	Activity report and conclusions of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.15/2016/6	Clearing Mined Areas: Conclusions and Recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.15/2016/6/Add.1/Rev.1	Clearing Mined Areas: Conclusions and Recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.15/2016/6/Add.2	Clearing Mined Areas: Conclusions and Recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.15/2016/6/Add.3	Clearing Mined Areas: Conclusions and Recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.15/2016/7	Conclusions. Committee on Victim Assistance (Belgium, Colombia, Senegal, Thailand)
APLC/MSP.15/2016/8	Interim report on the 2016 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.15/2016/9	Estimated costs of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties
APLC/MSP.15/2016/10	Final report
APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.1	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention.

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
	Submitted by Niger
APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.2	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Peru
APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.3	Analysis of the request submitted by Peru for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.4	Analysis of the request submitted by Niger for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.15/2016/WP.5	Implementation Support Unit 2017 budget and work plan, Submitted by the ISU Director
APLC/MSP.15/2016/MISC.1	Trust Fund ISU APMBC
APLC/MSP.15/2016/INF.1	List of participants
