Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional Meetings | 22 June – 24 June 2021

Draft Programme

Tuesday - 22 June 2021

1000 - 1015 Opening of the Intersessional Meetings

H.E. Robbert Gabriëlse, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and Disarmament Ambassador-at-large, President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) and H.E. Stefano Toscano, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), will deliver opening remarks.

1015 - 1130 Preliminary Observations of the Convention’s President and Committees¹

In accordance with their respective mandates, the Convention President and thematic Committees will present their activities since the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties and preliminary observations on the implementation of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) based on the information submitted by the States Parties. The Committees will also provide information on their activities and efforts in the lead up to the 19MSP.

1130 - 1300 Break

1300 - 1430 Thematic Session – Victim Assistance: Establishing or Strengthening a Centralised Database

Objective

This thematic session aims to support States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities by drawing attention to challenges, good practices, and available resources in data collection and in establishing or strengthening a national centralised database in support of the fulfilment of Action 35 of the OAP. The session will be led by the Committee on Victim Assistance.

Background

While significant progress has been made in implementing Victim Assistance provisions of the Convention and the OAP, significant challenges remain. One persistent challenge reported by States Parties is that of data collection and the absence of a national centralised database², directly affecting various aspects of Victim Assistance including the provisions of healthcare, rehabilitation, psychosocial support, socio and economic inclusion, the development and implementation of plans and policies and the integration of the needs of mine victims into broader frameworks.

¹ The Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Belgium, Norway, Sri Lanka and Zambia (Chair)).
² APLC/CONF/2019/5/Add.1

The Committee on Victim Assistance (Algeria, Ecuador, Sweden and Thailand (Chair)).
The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance (Colombia (Chair), Germany, Japan and Sudan).
The Committee on Cooperative Compliance (Chile, the Netherlands (Chair), Panama, Poland and Spain).
At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties committed to “Establish or strengthen a centralised database that includes information on persons killed by mines as well as on persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, and make this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims.” (Action 35, OAP)

Following a short expert discussion, the Committee will invite delegations to take the floor (3-5 minutes) and offer information on the status, challenges and plans in implementation of Action 35. Additional guidance to facilitate participation to be provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1430 - 1600</th>
<th>Break</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600 - 1700</td>
<td>Thematic Session - Integrating Gender and the Diverse Needs of Affected Communities in Operational Planning and Prioritization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective**

This thematic session aims to support efforts of States Parties to integrate and mainstream gender and diversity considerations into planning and priority-setting mechanisms by drawing attention to best practices, tools and support available in this regard. This session will be led by the Gender Focal Points3 of the Convention’s four thematic Committees.

**Background**

The objective of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is to “put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines”. In adopting the OAP, the States Parties reemphasized this person-centred approach to implementation highlighting the importance of “integrating and mainstreaming gender considerations and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account in mine action programming” and in reporting on efforts in this regard. The OAP also indicates the importance of States Parties in a position to provide assistance to support evidence based national strategies and work plans that respond to the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities and are built on sound gender, age and disability analysis.

*The Gender Focal Points will invite delegations to take the floor and offer information on their efforts, progress and challenges in implementing the gender and diversity commitments of the OAP. Additional guidance to facilitate participation to be provided.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1700 - 1800</th>
<th>Thematic Session – Mandate of the President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The President is mandated, in part, to take the lead, in consultation with the Coordinating Committee, with respect to any issue related to the pursuit of the Convention’s aims other than those related to the mandates of the Committees. This includes matters related to the promotion of universalization of the Convention, stockpile destruction under Article 4 and transparency regarding the exceptions contained in Article 3 of the Convention.

*The President will invite States Parties implementing stockpile destruction obligations under Article 4 and States Parties retaining anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes under Article 3*
to offer updates on their efforts and challenges in implementation of their commitments under the OAP. Additional guidance to facilitate participation to be provided.

The President will also invite States not party to offer an update on efforts made in observing the norms of the Convention and steps taken toward accession/ratification to the Convention. The President will also invite delegations to provide an update on their efforts to support the universalization of the Convention. Additional guidance to facilitate participation to be provided.

1800 - 1810  Closing and overview of Day 2

**Wednesday - 23 June 2021**

1000 - 1200  Informal Presentation of Requests for Extensions to be considered by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation will present on the status of extension requests.

States Parties that have submitted or will submit requests for extension\(^4\) of their Article 5 deadlines for consideration at the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties will be invited to take the floor to offer an informal presentation of their request.

This will be followed by a question and answer session.

1200 - 1300  Break

1300 - 1500  Informal Presentation of Requests for Extensions to be considered by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (continued)

1500 - 1630  Break

1630 - 1800  **Thematic Session** – Completion and Sustainable National Capacities

**Objective**

This thematic session aims to support States Parties implementing Article 5 by drawing attention to key issues to consider ahead of completion, challenges and good practices in the drawing down of a national mine action program and the importance of ensuring sustainability of activities even after all mined areas have been addressed. The session will be led by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.

**Background**

Since the entry into force of the Convention, 63 States Parties have reported the presence of mined areas under their jurisdiction or control. To date 31 States Parties have reported completion of their mine clearance obligations under Article 5 and 32 States Parties are putting forth efforts to complete mine clearance operations by 2025 or within the next decade.

---

\(^4\) Cyprus, DRC, Eritrea, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia and Turkey.
The States Parties have recognized that after a State has declared completion and after its original or extended deadline to implement Article 5 has expired, a State may discover a previously unknown/newly mined area (i.e. having addressed all mined areas\(^5\) under the State’s jurisdiction or control). In this regard, Action 26 of the OAP commits States Parties to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address such a situation. Furthermore, Action 31 indicates the importance of building a national capacity to deliver mine risk education with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes in previously unknown mined areas.

*The Committee will invite States Parties implementing Article 5 to take the floor and offer information on their remaining challenge and the status of implementation of Action 26 and 31. Guidance to facilitate your participation to be provided.*

**1800 - 1810**  
Closing and overview of Day 3

**Thursday – 24 June 2021**

**1000 - 1130**  
**Thematic Session** – Mobilizing Resources towards a Mine Free World

**Objective**

This thematic session aims to support States Parties by drawing attention to the interconnectivity of the Cooperation and Assistance actions of the OAP in providing guidance in mobilizing resources and exploring how to best make definite progress towards achieving the States Parties 2025 ambitions. The session will be led by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

**Background**

In reporting on implementation of the Convention’s mine clearance provisions, the majority of mine affected States Parties have indicated time and time again that a lack of financial resources is one of the main challenges they face. Many States Parties have indicated that this has been exasperated due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The OAP adopted by the States Parties at the 2019 Fourth Review Conference, reaffirmed that while each State Party is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, cooperation and assistance can support implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible. In this regard, the OAP includes actions to be carried out by States Parties in need of assistance and States Parties in a position to provide such assistance to ensure the effective mobilization of resource for implementation. Furthermore, the States Parties, in adopting the Oslo Declaration committed to “strengthen partnerships and to sustain and, where necessary, increase resources, assistance, national and international funding” and “explore options for new and alternative sources of funding with a view to increasing the resources available to realise the Convention’s aims.”

*The Committee will invite delegations to take the floor and offer information on their efforts to implement the Cooperation and Assistance actions of the OAP. Guidance to facilitate your participation to be provided.*

**1130 - 1300**  
Break

---

\(^5\)“Mined area” means an area which is dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of mines.
1300 - 1430 Thematic Session – Strengthening Compliance Measures

Objective

This thematic session aims to support States Parties in ensuring implementation of the compliance measures of the Convention and the OAP by examining the status of implementation of compliance measures one year following the Fourth Review Conference. The session will be chaired by the Committee on Cooperative Compliance.

Background

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is considered one of the most successful disarmament treaties. This is due to its wide membership, the global norm it has established against the use of anti-personnel mines, the high rate of compliance and its continued successful implementation by the States Parties.

The Convention however is not without its challenges. The States Parties acknowledged this at the 2019 Fourth Review Conference in recalling the importance of continuing the dialogue States with alleged or known non-compliance with the general obligations under Article 1 and to work together in a spirit of cooperation to resolve the matter. The States Parties also agreed to ensure implementation of the measures to ensure compliance within the Convention, particularly Article 9 concerning National Legislation and Article 7 concerning Transparency.

*The Committee will invite States Parties with alleged or known non-compliance with the general obligations under Article 1 to update the States Parties on their efforts to address them. The Committee will also invite States Parties with outstanding Article 9 commitments to take the floor to offer an update on implementation of Action 50 of the OAP. Guidance to facilitate your participation to be provided.*

1430 - 1600 Break

1600 - 1700 The road towards the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties

- Presentation of a draft programme of work for the 19MSP (President)
- Update on preparations for the 19MSP and matters related to the 20MSP (the Netherlands)
- Presentation on 19MSP financial and organisational matters (UNODA)
- Sponsorship Programme (Sponsorship Programme Coordinator)

1700 - 1715 Update from the Implementation Support Unit

1715 - 1730 Closing of the 2021 Intersessional Meetings

H.E. Robbert Gabriëlse, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and Disarmament Ambassador-at-large, President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) will deliver closing remarks.