



Thematic Session: Completion and Sustainable National Capacities

Wednesday, 23 June, 16:00 – 17:45 CEST

Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Belgium, Norway, Sri Lanka, Zambia (Chair))

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 in the process of implementation with many of these on States on track to complete mine clearance operations by 2025 or within the next decade. At the 2014 Third Review Conference the States Parties affirmed their ambition “to intensify our efforts to complete our respective time-bound obligations with the urgency that the completion work requires” and to do so “to the fullest extent possible by 2025”. At the 2019 Fourth Review Conference the States Parties reaffirmed this ambition and adopted the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) to support its achievement.

In their deliberations concerning the implementation of Article 5, States Parties have recognizing the fact 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 areas¹ under the State’s jurisdiction or control). In this regard, Action 26 of the OAP commits States to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address these areas. 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.

Several matters need to be considered well ahead of Article 5 completion:

- What is a State Party’s obligations under the Convention in the event of the identification of a previously unknown mined areas, including a newly mined area, following completion or expiration of its original or extended deadline to implement Article 5?
- What does it mean to have a “national sustainable capacity” in place and how early should it be in place (e.g. during the early life of the mine action programme)?
- What should States consider throughout the life of the programme (e.g. information collected) to best prepare them for completion and the establishment of a national sustainable capacity?

¹ "Mined area" means an area which is dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of mines.

- What mechanism should be maintained or put in place to ensure that reports from the local population continue to be addressed?
- How best can mine action programmes prepare for the eventual drawdown of their mine clearance personnel and address the impact of, for example, loss of jobs for national staff of the programme?
- How best to ensure that Mine Risk Education efforts are sustainable and continue following completion?

In support of efforts by the States Parties to successfully conclude their mine action programmes, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation will host a panel discussion to provide some lessons learned and best practices in drawing down a national mine action programme, ensuring the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mine areas discovered following completion and ensuring that key elements of the national mine action programme remain following completion.

Objectives

To bring together expert panel to discuss the challenges and best practices in the drawing down of a national mine action programmes and best practices in the establishment of a national sustainable capacity.

The Panel discussion will also provide an opportunity for States Parties to share information on their efforts and challenges in the establishment of a national sustainable capacity.

Format

The thematic discussion will be held in an interactive format, beginning with introductory remarks by the presenters. The floor will then be open for brief (3-5 minutes) interventions from States Parties concerning their remaining challenge, their expected completion date and updates from national authorities on their efforts to establish a national sustainable capacity to address previously unknown contamination and to continue the delivery of mine risk education.

Discussion

Moderator: Chileshe Veronica Nkole, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia, Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

- **Christian Fredrik Fougner Rydning**, First Secretary (Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament), Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations in Geneva
- **Gen. Mohammad Breikat**, National Director, National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- **Col. Carl Case**, Senior Advisor for Mine Action, Department of Public Security, Organization of American States
- **Hugues Laurence**, Child Protection Specialist, Children and Armed Conflict team, UNICEF
- **Josephine Dresner**, International Policy and Partnerships Director, Mines Advisory Group

Background documents

- [The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Oslo Action Declaration, Oslo Action Plan](#)
- [Ninth Meeting of the States Parties \(9MSP\); Applying all available methods to achieve the full, efficient and expedient implementation of Article 5](#)
- [Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties \(12MSP\); Proposed rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed](#)
- [Achieving the Aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Draft Progress Report 2019-2020](#)
- [Oslo Action Plan: Status of Implementation](#)