



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings | 30 June – 2 July 2020 Virtual

Submission of information for the Convention's website

Introduction

An important element of the Intersessional Meetings is the opportunity for States Parties to provide updated information on efforts and challenges in implementation of their Convention obligations. While this year's Intersessional Meetings will be held in a virtual format due to the global pandemic caused by Covid-19, the 2020 Intersessional Meetings will provide an opportunity for States Parties to submit updates in written form on their implementation efforts. This information will enable the President and the Committees to more accurately develop a baseline value for implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

Information should be sent to isu@apminebanconvention.org by no later than **19 June** to be placed on the Convention's website here:

<https://www.apminebanconvention.org/intersessional-work-programme/june-july-2020/>

States are encouraged to submit updated information in advance of the Intersessional meetings on the following matters related to the implementation of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan:

Matters related to Victim Assistance implementation

States Parties implementing Victim Assistance (VA) activities are invited to provide updated information on all related actions of the Oslo Action Plan (Action #33 – Action #41), including the following:

- 1. Information on the government entity assigned to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and progress made in this regard. (OAP Action #33)*
- 2. Efforts to ensure that your State's VA efforts are inclusive of gender, age and disability and takes diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes. (OAP Action #33)*
- 3. Progress in carry out multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed. (OAP Action #34)*
- 4. Progress in developing/maintaining 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 in making this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims. (OAP Action #35)

5. *Progress in ensuring (OAP Action #36-38) :*

- *effective and efficient first aid to casualties in mine-affected communities, as well as other medical emergency services, and ongoing medical care.*
- *access to comprehensive rehabilitation services and psychological and psychosocial support services, including through the provision of outreach rehabilitation service, where necessary, while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable. This includes the provision of assistive devices, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and peer-to-peer support programs.*
- *Establishment/maintenance of a national referral mechanism to facilitate access to services for mine victims, including by creating and disseminating a comprehensive directory of services.*

6. *Progress in ensuring the social and economic inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in all matters that affect them, including in rural and remote areas. (OAP Action #39, #41)*

7. *Progress in ensuring that relevant national humanitarian response and preparedness plans provide for the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk (OAP Action #40)*

8. *Financial commitment made by your State for implementation of its VA commitments.*

Consolidated response to questions 1-8

Under Article 5, the UK is obligated to clear and destroy anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control. The Falkland Islands is the only part of UK territory that contains landmines.

While the Falklands is part of UK territory, matters relating to healthcare are devolved to the Falklands Islands Government. If a member of the public were to suffer a mine injury, police will alert ambulance services to provide care. On the Falklands Demining Programme, a medic attends each task site and will offer immediate first aid to deminers in the event of an injury. A dedicated vehicle is also in place for use as an ambulance.

The King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) on the Falkland Islands provides healthcare services to the population, including the demining teams. If a serious accident occurs, a medical evacuation will take place to transport the injured individual to reciprocal hospitals in the UK, Uruguay or Chile.

The Islands have an extensive public health and social care framework which includes a fully functioning hospital, dental, physiotherapy, and psychiatry units, and social care facilities and support. This comprehensive framework is inclusive of gender, age and disability and takes diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes. This support is available to anyone who requires assistance, including potential mine victims.

Since the mines were laid in 1982 on the Falkland Islands, there have been no civilian casualties. However, two UK military personnel were injured in 1983. As part of Ministry of Defence policy, compensation schemes for armed forces and veterans cover any injury or death caused by service, including resulting injuries from landmines.

The UK's Department for Work and Pensions has disability and sickness policies in place for all UK civilians that require assistance and support, which would include any civilians that may have been injured by a landmine overseas. Where eligible, citizens have access to income maintenance support and disability benefits, which are tailored to reflect their individual circumstances.

The UK believes that integrated support for mine victims through broad health, social and economic development programmes is the most effective, efficient and, importantly, sustainable approach to address the long-term needs of victims. It is therefore not possible to demarcate the UK's financial allocation to victim assistance commitments.

Matters related to Article 5 Implementation

States Parties implementing Mine Clearance and Mine Risk Education and Reduction Activities are invited to provide updated on all related actions of the Oslo Action Plan (Action #18 – Action #27) including the following:

1. *Status of efforts to identify the precise perimeter, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baseline of contamination. (OAP Action #18)*
2. *Projections of the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually to achieve completion and information on how priorities have been established. (OAP Action #19, Action #20)*
3. *Update on progress and challenges addressing mined areas since the start of 2020, including the number of mined areas and amount of areas addressed disaggregated in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance). (OAP Action #22)*
4. *The remaining implementation challenge in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (i.e. disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination.) (OAP Action #22)*
5. *Efforts made to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect. (OAP Action #27)*
6. *Efforts made to ensure a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. (OAP Action#26)*
7. *Efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered in planning and implementation of mine clearance activities.*
8. *Efforts to integrate mine clearance activities into other frameworks such as development plans, poverty reduction strategies and humanitarian response plans.*
9. *Financial commitment by your State for this implementation of this aspect of the Convention.*

Consolidated response to questions 1-9

At the beginning of 2020, six mined areas remained to be cleared on the Falkland Islands, all of which had been technically surveyed. The UK is pleased to report that there are now only four remaining

confirmed hazardous areas (an estimated total of 226,958 square metres), which are all contained within perimeter-marked and fenced areas, as required under Article 5(2) of the Ottawa Convention.

There is a very low risk of discovering further mined areas on the Falkland Islands. However, following the conclusion of the Demining Programme, any further finds will be addressed by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from the UK's Royal Air Force Armament Engineering Flight, based on the Islands.

The UK encourages its contractors on the Falklands Demining Programme to implement efficient ways of working to improve survey and clearance processes. The Land Release Contractor (LRC) and the Demining Programme Office (DPO) have both worked on the Programme since Phase 1. This has allowed for continual improvements to survey and clearance processes as well as project management, learning lessons from previous phases to increase performance and productivity. On land release, the DPO monitors the LRC's quality assurance and quality control and undertakes its own assurance processes, to ensure that the risk of residual mines is 'As Low As Reasonably Practicable'. Through oversight of the Programme, the DPO regularly provides recommendations to improve quality, efficiency and effectiveness.

The UK is keen to share technological knowledge discovered through the Falklands Demining Programme with the Convention. In May 2019, the UK Government commissioned a third mine exploitation which evaluated the effects of ageing on some of the anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mine types recovered. The results will be shared through the Meeting of the States Party in November 2020. In addition, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has developed training material on mine clearance, based on knowledge and experience gained through the Falklands Demining Programme, targeted at mine action practitioners. The course content includes information on minefield location, tactics used and land release efforts. The Falkland Islands case study is available on GICHD's website.

The UK makes every effort to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered in planning and implementation of mine clearance activities on the Falkland Islands. The National Mine Action Authority requires its contractors, SafeLane Global Ltd and Fenix Insight Ltd, to meet contractual conditions to prevent unlawful discrimination either directly or indirectly on protected characteristics such as race, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, sex or sexual orientation, religion or belief, or age. The provisions also set out that the Contractor shall adhere to the current relevant codes of practice or recommendations published by the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission.

At the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the national authority, women are involved in the Programme in key positions, such as Senior Responsible Officer, Deputy Senior Responsible Officer, and Project Manager.

The UK is confident that the necessary funding will be in place to allow us to complete clearance by 30 December 2020. This will bring the total investment in the Programme to £44million.

As part of our international and cooperation obligations as a donor, the UK encourages delivery partners to ensure that mine clearance activities support wider development and humanitarian objectives. For example, in Sudan UK funding is helping to clear land to facilitate humanitarian assistance, while in Cambodia, clearance priorities are set in collaboration with relevant national and local authorities to promote development.

Mine Risk Education and Reduction

1. *Efforts to Integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities. (OAP Action #28)*
2. *Efforts to ensure that mine risk education and reduction programmes are context-specific to all affected populations and groups at risk and are developed on the basis of a needs assessment. (OAP Action #29)*
3. *Efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. (OAP Action #30)*
4. *Efforts to build the national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes. (OAP Action #31)*
5. *Information on methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. (OAP Action #32)*

Consolidated response to questions 1-5

The Falkland Islands Government have a clear reporting system for the eventuality that a member of the public discovers a mine, which also provides information on who to contact. The reporting system is taught in schools and is also on all signage around suspect areas. As part of the national curriculum, students are taught about the 1982 conflict and its ramifications, including the existing minefields. In addition, the Islands organise annual memorial events for the community and veterans to remember the conflict and educate attendees over the presence of mines.

The UK's Global Mine Action Programme 2 includes risk education, survey, clearance and capacity building activities within the same funding agreements. Combining activities in this way helps to ensure that they are integrated, and helps GMAP2 delivery partners to align the programme with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts.

Matters related to Cooperation and Assistance

Affected States Parties and States in a position to provide assistance are invited to provide updated information on all aspects of implementation of the Cooperation and Assistance related actions of the Oslo Action Plan (Action #42 – Action #47) including the following:

For affected States: - N/A

1. *Commitment of resources made by your State to meet Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible alternative and/or innovative sources of funding. (OAP Action #42)*
2. *Resource mobilisation plans and efforts use all mechanisms within the Convention to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance. (OAP Action #43)*
3. *Efforts to strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. (OAP Action #44)*

4. *Efforts to establish an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders. (OAP Action #44)*
5. *Efforts to explore opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned. (OAP Action #47)*

For States in a position to provide assistance:

1. *Support provided to States Parties in the implementation of their commitments under the Convention. (OAP Action #45)*
2. *Manner in which gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities is considered in providing support in implementation. (OAP Action #45)*
3. *Efforts carried, where possible using existing mechanisms, to coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties. (OAP Action #46)*
4. *Efforts to explore opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned. (OAP Action #47)*

Consolidated response to questions 1-4

As one of the founding signatories to the Ottawa Convention, and with our firm commitment to UK Aid, the UK is one of the leading partners for mine action. In 2017, the UK Government tripled its support to demining, announcing a commitment to spend £100million over three years through the Department for International Development's (DFID's) Global Mine Action Programme. Globally this commitment has cleared and confirmed safe over 150 million square metres of land, helped over 800,000 people live their lives free from the threat of mines, and has reached nearly 1.4 million beneficiaries through mine risk education sessions. The programme operates in 14 heavily contaminated countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

DFID's Global Mine Action Programme 2 (GMAP2) has been designed to help State Parties meet their national mine action commitments under the Ottawa Convention. It delivers three key activities: surveying and clearing contaminated land; delivering mine risk education sessions to encourage behaviour change in communities living with the threat of landmines; and providing capacity building support to national mine action authorities so they can implement national plans and manage their own contamination effectively and sustainably.

The UK is a leader in developing policies to address gender-related issues and is committed to politically empower women and girls as change agents and leaders, as articulated in DFID's Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, the UK's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the World Humanitarian Summit Commitments.

We recognise that the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) is different for men, women, boys and girls. In 2018, men and boys made up 88% of all casualties of landmines where the sex of victims was known, while women can be disproportionately affected by the consequences of landmines. In line with the UK's legislative commitments under the Gender Equality Act, the UK continues to promote and mainstream gender equality through GMAP2 and ensure our mine action programming is attuned to the different needs of men, women, boys and girls in the following ways:

- **Operator employment practices:** mine action organisations that the UK funds should ensure staff they engage are reflective of, and responsive to, the gender demographics in local communities. We expect our chosen suppliers to demonstrate a commitment to gender and social inclusion in employment practices in each country of operation. We promote and encourage the employment of as many female deminers as possible. Key recent successes through GMAP2 include funding toward the first mixed gender demining team in Yemen, the first female deminer in Sudan, as well as all female demining teams in Angola, Vietnam and Afghanistan.
- **Implementing mine action activities:** women, men, girls and boys are affected by landmines in different ways and respond differently to messages on the threat of landmines. Because of this, mine risk education sessions should be adjusted to the specific audience and, where possible, delivered in specific groups. We are also aware that women, men, girls and boys will describe the experience of living with landmines differently. For this reason, non-technical surveys (for instance, consulting with local communities) should be conducted with single-sex groups where appropriate, and capacity development of local authorities and governments should include gender awareness training.
- **Data collection, disaggregation and analysis:** all programme indicators are disaggregated by gender as far as possible and where appropriate. This includes data on the impact of landmines and beneficiary demographics.

The UK continues to take account of the geographic and strategic balance of other donors' funding to ensure that UK support helps a variety of affected State Parties meet their Convention obligations and that our funding is being put to the best use.

The UK maintains regular contact with other donors on various mine action programming and policy issues to ensure we are aligned and working in coordination with national partners globally. This includes coordinating closely on key issues such as how to respond to COVID-19, and sharing lessons learnt and best practice from our GMAP2 programming. We also participate in the Mine Action Support Group to promote improved coordination and regular dialogue

In November 2019, DFID's Monitoring and Evaluation provider for GMAP2, Itad, organised a 1-day meeting with key stakeholders across the mine action sector focused on expanding the evidence base on the impact of mine action. The UK is working with partners to take this work forward, including considering how donors can align future project design and indicators. Itad worked with DFID to form an 'informal group of friends', including operators, donors and other stakeholders interested in strengthening the mine action evidence base. Itad ran a workshop presenting work in this area at the National Directors' Meeting in Geneva in February 2020. Itad have produced a paper on this work, as well as a literature review covering the links between mine action and longer-term development. The informal group met in mid-June to discuss next steps to take this work forward.

This evidence-building work is part of the UK's commitment to learning lessons through GMAP2. Working with Itad, DFID has published a range of documents contributing to best practice and lesson sharing. This includes a cross-programme 'Formative Evaluation' and two Annual Review reports (2018 and 2019) for GMAP2. Itad will also be producing a research study on the impact of mine action on development, and a 'Summative Evaluation' of the GMAP2 programme in 2021, which will further contribute to mine action's evidence base and best practice lesson sharing.

Matters related to Compliance – N/A

States Parties are invited to provide updated information on all aspects of compliance related actions of the Oslo Action Plan (Action #48 – Action #50) including the following:

For States with allegations of use in territory under their jurisdiction or control:

- 1. Status concerning investigation into alleged or known non-compliance with the general obligations under Article 1. (OAP Action #48)*
- 2. If relevant, efforts to urgently take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement those obligations under Article 9 of the Convention. (OAP Action #50)*

All States Parties:

- 3. If relevant, efforts to urgently take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement those obligations under Article 9 of the Convention. (OAP Action #50)*

Matters related to Universalization

States Parties are invited to provide updated information on all Universalization related actions of the Oslo Action Plan (Action #11 and Action #12) including the following:

For States not Party: **N/A**

- 1. Practical steps taken by your State, such as formalised commitments not to use, produce or transfer anti-personnel, or to destroy stockpiles,*
- 2. Position of your State on ratifying or acceding to the Convention in the near term, in the medium term and in the long term.*
- 3. Primary reason for your State not acceding to the Convention.*

For All States:

- 4. Actions taken by your State since the Fourth Review Conference to promote formal adherence to the Convention by States not party. (Oslo Action Plan #11)*
- 5. Actions taken by your State taken to condemn violation of the Convention's norms. (Oslo Action Plan #12)*

In light of the Covid-19 outbreak, the UK amended ways of working and reprioritised resources to respond to the pandemic. We have therefore been unable to participate in activities to promote Universalisation of non-States Parties as actively as we might have hoped. We hope to resume full support to the Convention as soon as possible.

Stockpile destruction and retained mines - N/A

States Parties are invited to provide updated information on all Stockpile Destruction related actions of the Oslo Action Plan (Action #13 – Action #15) including the following:

- 1. Information on time-bound plan, including milestones for the fulfilment of Article 4. (OAP Action #13)*

2. *Information on progress made and remaining challenges in implementation. (OAP Action # 13)*
3. *If relevant, any previously unknown stockpiled mines discovered and information on efforts to destroy these anti-personnel mines as soon as possible and no later than six months after their discover. (OAS Action #15)*

Article 3 retained anti-personnel mines – N/A

States Parties are invited to provide updated information on all retained mines related actions of the Oslo Action Plan (Action #16 and Action #17) including the following:

1. *Actions taken by your State, since the Fourth Review Conference, to “reviewed the number of retained anti-personnel mines to ensure that they constitute the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes” and actions taken to destroy all those exceeding that number (OAP #16)*
2. *Actions taken by your State to explore available alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines for training and research activities. (OAP Action#17)*
3. *Information on the purposes for which retained mines have been used and the results of this use.*
4. *Where relevant, explanation on any increase or decrease in the number of retained anti-personnel mines.*