

## **INITIAL IDEAS REGARDING THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES**

**H.E. Prak Sokhonn of Cambodia  
President-Designate of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties**

**(For discussion on 24 June 2011 at the meeting of the  
Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention)**

The Convention was born from the human tragedy caused by mines in Cambodia as well as in so many other locations around the world. It emerged from places such as the Sala Krau District of Cambodia, where conflict ended long ago but where innocent women, girls, boys and men were still falling victims to weapons of war. It was sparked by the post-conflict reality throughout South East Asia where organisations like the Coalition for Peace and Reconciliation and Handicap International brought to the world's attention the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. It was made essential in places such as villages in Cambodia's border regions, where for more than two decades individuals have fallen victim to mines, with many of these having survived, and, literally, having grown up with this Convention.

Unlike other disarmament treaties, born in Washington or Moscow, or Geneva or New York, this Convention emerged from the reality faced by people in Battambang, Cambodia, in the Tete Province of Mozambique, in Nueva Segovia, Nicaragua, in the Canton of Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Afghanistan's Parwan Province and in countless other mine infested towns, villages, farms, communities and countries around the world. Up until the mid 1990s, the anti-personnel mine was used seemingly without question as to its consequences. Thanks to the international movement that grew out of such places as Cambodia, the world became well aware that there are indeed tragic consequences. And more than anything, the experience of countries like Cambodia and the tireless efforts of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines put a face on this issue.

With the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP), the Convention is returning to a place where it all started two decades ago. As such, the 11MSP is a chance for the international community to recall how far we have come. The Convention undeniably is an incredible success story. The conclusion of the Ottawa Process itself was a great triumph. Real success, though, rests in how, spurred on by the Convention's heavy emphasis on partnership and cooperation, the international community has cooperated in an unprecedented manner to pursue a conclusive end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. In the formal proceedings of the 11MSP as well as in the events that surround it, let us take stock of how things have changed and progressed since a face was first put on the landmine issue.

The 11MSP, taking place in what remains one of the most mine affected countries in the world, is also our chance to show the world that this very much is an issue we still live with today. In Cambodia, we are proud that we have one of the world's leading mine victim incidence surveillance systems. But we are devastated to see, that in each report issued by this surveillance system, mines and other explosive devices continue to kill and injure on almost a daily basis. The 11MSP, therefore, can be our springboard to further action and our opportunity to state that our commitment to this cause will not end until the task is complete.

But more than anything, the 11MSP is a chance to remember that the Convention has a face. It is the face of a sister, brother, mother, father or child who has lost a loved one as a result of a mine. But it is also the face of the survivor who has gone on to inspire us and who has issued a call for us to assure the rights of all who are living with a disability. The face of the Convention is the farmer who knowingly takes risks in cultivating land in hazardous areas given that he or she has little option

when it comes to feeding their family. As well, the face of the Convention is the deminer, more than 3,000 of which work on a daily basis in Cambodia, carrying out painstaking efforts to free this land of its deadly bondage. My hope is that the 11MSP will ensure that this human face is evident.

At the 11MSP, the States Parties will need to take decisions on the Convention's processes and its machinery. The decisions we take on what may seem like faceless matters are but means to an end. We must remember that there are faces behind these decisions. In particular, I propose that the human face of the Convention be front and centre, including at an informal session during the plenary of the 11MSP which would reflect on two decades of efforts of a wide range of actors to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

The 11MSP is also the culmination of the second year of the application of the Cartagena Action Plan. In this regard and in keeping with the practices, I intend to produce a Phnom Penh Progress Report to support the application of the Cartagena Action Plan by measuring progress since the 10MSP and highlighting priority areas of work to be acted upon between the 11MSP and the 12MSP.

In addition, the 11MSP will need to consider the following matters:

- The 10MSP President has been mandated to conclude an amended agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on the Implementation Support Unit, and, to establish an informal open-ended working group to examine new models for financing the ISU. The 11MSP will serve as an opportunity to bring closure to these tasks.
- The 10MSP President has been tasked with submitting ideas, in June 2011, regarding how many Co-Chairs / Co-Rapporteurs may be required to ensure the effective functioning of the mechanisms established by the States Parties, with a view to a decision to be taken on this matter at the 11MSP. In addition, subject to such a decision, the 11MSP will need to elect Co-Chairs / Co-Rapporteurs.
- In addition, the 11MSP will need to consider requests for mine clearance extensions that have been submitted by Algeria, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Eritrea.

Regarding the programme for the 11MSP, the general format of the programme used at the 9MSP and the 10MSP is fitting. The main features of the programme that I wish to propose are as follows:

- Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the 11MSP, States Parties and observers would be encouraged to refrain from making general statements but rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters, particularly in connection with the Cartagena Action Plan points. In addition, if they wish, delegations could distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements. An exception would be made for high level participants, given that there is a possibility of Ministerial-level participation, particularly from South East Asia.
- In keeping with the practices successfully employed since 2008, at the beginning of the meeting there would be an opportunity for informal presentations of and discussions on Article 5 extension requests with the States Parties returning to formal consideration of these requests on the final day of the meeting.
- As noted above, we would seize the opportunity of the Convention returning to one of the places where this movement was born twenty years ago to stage an informal session to reflect on two decades of efforts of a wide range of actors to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

- In keeping with the manner in which we have traditionally organized our work, the “consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention” would be organized thematically to include universalization, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance and the other matters important for achieving our aims.
- Matters related to the Implementation Support Unit would be dealt with on the afternoon of Thursday 1 December.

In terms of next steps, I intend to proceed as follows, seeking the cooperation and support of the States Parties and others every step along the way:

- If the agenda and programme that I have proposed are generally acceptable, I will proceed in requesting that the Implementation Support Unit transmit them to the 11MSP Executive Secretary for adoption at the beginning of the 11MSP.
- Working in close cooperation with the Co-Chairs and others, I will proceed in preparing a first draft of a progress report covering the period from the close of the 10MSP until the 11MSP. I will draw extensively on Article 7 transparency reports and the updates provided by States Parties at the 20-24 June 2011 meetings of the Standing Committees. Additional initial input would be welcome in writing by 1 July. I will then aim to distribute a first draft in late August.
- On Monday 5 September from 15:00 to 18:00 in Geneva, I will convene an informal meeting in advance of the 11MSP. The purpose of this meeting will be to seek your views with respect to the draft progress report and to review the other matters of substance that are being prepared for the 11MSP.

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Phnom Penh, 28 November – 2 December 2011  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

### **DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Official opening of the meeting
2. Election of the President
3. Brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers
6. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting
7. Organization of work
8. General exchange of views<sup>1</sup>
9. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests
10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
  - (a) Assisting the victims
  - (b) Clearing mined areas
  - (c) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines
  - (d) Universalizing the Convention
  - (e) Implementation Support
    - i. Amended agreement with the GICHD regarding the ISU
    - ii. Recommendations on a financing model for the ISU
    - iii. Report on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU and presentation of a work plan and a budget for the 2012 activities of the ISU
    - iv. Matters pertaining to the functioning of the Intersessional Work Programme
    - v. Others matters concerning implementation support
  - (f) Cooperation and Assistance
  - (g) Transparency and the exchange of information

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<sup>1</sup> Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the Eleventh Meeting, States Parties and observers are encouraged to refrain from making general statements but rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters indicated in agenda item 12. In addition, if they wish, delegations can distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements.

(h) Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance

11. Informal session: Reflecting on two decades of efforts to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines
12. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5
13. Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7
14. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8
15. Date, duration and location of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Twelfth Meeting.
16. Any other business
17. Consideration and adoption of the final document
18. Closure of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties

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Phnom Penh, 28 November – 2 December 2011  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK**

**Monday 28 November**

**09:00 – 12:00**

1. Official opening of the meeting
2. Election of the President
3. Brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations.
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers
6. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting
7. Organisation of work
8. General exchange of views<sup>2</sup>

**14:00 – 17:00**

9. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests

**Tuesday 29 November**

**09:00 – 12:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
  - (a) Assisting the victims

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<sup>2</sup> Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the Eleventh Meeting, delegations – other than those led by high level representatives – are encouraged to refrain from making general statements. Delegations may rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters indicated in agenda item 12. In addition, if they wish, delegations can distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements.

**14:00 – 17:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (a) Assisting the victims (continued)
- (b) Clearing mined areas

**Wednesday 30 November**

**09:00 – 12:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

- (b) Clearing mined areas (continued)

**14:00 – 17:00**

11. Informal session: Reflecting on two decades of efforts to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines

**Thursday 1 December**

**09:00 – 12:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (c) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines
- (d) Universalizing the Convention

**14:00 – 17:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (e) Implementation support
  - i. Amended agreement with the GICHD regarding the ISU
  - ii. Recommendations on a financing model for the ISU
  - iii. Report on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU and presentation of a work plan and a budget for the 2012 activities of the ISU
  - iv. Matters pertaining to the functioning of the Intersessional Work Programme
  - v. Others matters concerning implementation support

**Friday 2 December**

**09:00 – 12:00**

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (f) Cooperation and Assistance
- (g) Transparency and the exchange of information
- (h) Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance

**14:00 – 17:00**

- 12. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5
- 13. Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7
- 14. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8
- 15. Date, duration and location of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Twelfth Meeting.
- 16. Any other business
- 17. Consideration and adoption of the final document
- 18. Closure of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties