

## EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW WAYS OF USING THE INTERSESSIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2011

### Background:

At the 10MSP, the States Parties requested the Coordinating Committee to organise the week of meetings of the Standing Committees in 2011 in such a way that time is allocated for Co-Chairs, individual States Parties and others to experiment with new ways of using the Intersessional Work Programme to more intensively focus on national contexts or to otherwise creatively support progress in the application of the Cartagena Action Plan. It was further agreed that, on the basis of experimentation carried out during various Intersessional Work Programmes, the States Parties should keep an open mind regarding the structure of the week of meetings of the Standing Committees to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the Intersessional Work Programme.

Further to these decisions:

- The Coordinating Committee has agreed that two 1.5 hour sessions on Thursday 23 June would be scheduled for interested Co-Chairs to organise activities “to more intensively focus on national contexts or to otherwise creatively support progress in the application of the Cartagena Action Plan”;
- The Coordinating Committee has agreed that these experimental sessions should be based on certain key principles, including:
  - that participation would be on a voluntary basis, particularly as concerns States Parties that would be the subject of a national focus,
  - that the overarching purpose of each session would be on cooperative means to support implementation, and,
  - that there would be no report produced attributing views to any participant or revealing participants’ affiliations.
- The Co-Chairs of three Standing Committees have decided to use this time to schedule concurrent small group discussions on various topics as follows:

### **Mine Clearance: Implementing plans contained in Article 5 extension requests (WMO Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Jura Meeting Room)**

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance will convene two sessions to discuss in more detail the challenges faced by two States Parties in implementing the plans and fulfilling the commitments made in their Article 5 extension requests. The Co-Chairs’ aim is to stimulate a cooperative discussion on how a variety of actors may be able to assist in overcoming these challenges. On 23 June, a session that focuses on Cambodia will take place from 11:30 to 13:00, followed, from 14:00 to 15:30, with a session that focuses on Mozambique.

Each session will begin with the State Party in question delivering a detailed presentation on (a) the efforts that have been made to implement the plans and fulfill the commitments contained in their Article 5 extension requests, (b) achievements made and challenges encountered, and, (c) updates or adjustments to plans of complete implementation of Article 5. Following these presentations,

demining operators and other actors supporting implementation in each country will be given an opportunity to share their perspectives. The Co-Chairs will then open the floor for a discussion that hopefully will lead to increased understanding of the efforts of the States in question and the identification of cooperative means to overcome challenges that have been highlighted.

Delegations that wish to take part in this discussion may wish to prepare by reviewing the extension requests submitted by Mozambique in 2008 and by Cambodia in 2009, and, the decisions taken on these requests:

- Cambodia: <http://www.apminebanconvention.org/states-parties-to-the-convention/cambodia/>
- Mozambique: <http://www.apminebanconvention.org/states-parties-to-the-convention/mozambique/>

### **Victim Assistance: Applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan (WMO Building, Level -1, Salle C1)**

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance will convene two sessions to discuss in more detail the experiences of two States Parties in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan. The Co-Chairs' aim is to see that all interested actors both learn more about the situation in each country and the challenges they face, and, engage in a discussion on how to assist these States Parties in addressing these challenges. On 23 June, a session that focuses on Afghanistan will take place from 11:30 to 13:00, followed, from 14:00 to 15:30, with a session that focuses on Uganda.

Each session will begin with the State Party in question delivering a presentation that would self-assess its national disability action plan, especially as it relates to landmine survivors. While each State has been asked to outline the main features of this plan, ideally this would be concise with the presentation mainly serving to highlight challenges it faces in a variety of specific areas. Areas of particular interest for discussions could include accessibility (including physical accessibility as well as accessibility to services), inclusion, gender and age considerations, legislation, monitoring / evaluation and national ownership.

With particular regard to national ownership, delegations may wish to recall that the 10MSP's Geneva Progress Report recorded that "national ownership in relation to victim assistance could comprise the following six elements: (a) a high level commitment to addressing the rights and needs of mine victims and other persons with disabilities, (b) a national coordination mechanism empowered and provided with the human, financial and material capacity to carry out its responsibilities, (c) a comprehensive plan, and, legislation to address the rights and needs of persons with disabilities including mine victims, (d) a regular, significant commitment to implement the policy, plan and legislation and to provide services, (e) capacity to implement the policy, plan and legislation or steps taken to acquire the resources necessary to build this capacity, and, (f) a national focal entity for disability related issues." In this regard, it has been suggested to Afghanistan and Uganda that they may wish to comment on each of these points as it relates to their particular country context.

Following the presentation by Afghanistan / Uganda there will be an opportunity for those active in assisting the victims in each respective States to share their experiences and perspectives. The floor would then be open to a discussion, again with a view to both building understanding and identifying ways to overcome challenges.

Delegations that wish to take part in this discussion may wish to prepare by reviewing the document “Assisting the Victims: Recommendations on Implementing the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014”, which was prepared by the 2008-2009 Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee.

- Assisting the Victims: Recommendations on Implementing the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 – <http://www.cartagenasummit.org/fileadmin/pdf/review-conference-2nd/monday/2RC-Item9a-30Nov2009-Co-Chairs-recomm-en.pdf>

**General Status: National implementing legislation (Article 9)  
(WMO Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Lake Meeting Room)**

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention will convene one session to assist States Parties in fulfilling their obligations to take appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention. As such, this session may be of particular interest to those States Parties that have not yet reported either having adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations or that they consider existing laws to be sufficient.

The session will begin with a background presentation provided by the ICRC on Article 9 and the elements that should be considered when preparing legislation. Following the presentation by the ICRC, a couple of States Parties will briefly present their experiences in the fulfillment of Article 9 obligations. The floor will then be open for delegations to share their efforts to do the same, including by highlighting challenges they may have encountered and any requirements for assistance.