

Programme

for the Meetings

of the Standing Committees

April 23 to 27, 2007

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction



## INTERSESSIONAL WORK PROGRAMME 2006 | 2007

Calendar of the week of meetings of the Standing Committees | 23 - 27 April 2007

**MONDAY  
APRIL 23**

**TUESDAY  
APRIL 24**

**WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 25**

**THURSDAY  
APRIL 26**

**FRIDAY  
APRIL 27**

10:00 > General Status  
and Operation  
of the Convention  
13:00

> Stockpile Destruction  
> Victim Assistance  
and Socio-Economic  
Reintegration

> Mine Clearance,  
Mine Risk Education  
and Mine Action  
Technologies

> Mine Clearance,  
Mine Risk Education  
and Mine Action  
Technologies

> Victim Assistance  
and Socio-Economic  
Reintegration  
> General Status and  
Operation of the  
Convention

13:00 > Break for lunch,  
Side Events &  
Contact Group  
Meetings  
15:00

> Break for lunch,  
Side Events &  
Contact Group  
Meetings

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Side Events &  
Contact Group  
Meetings

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Contact Group  
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Contact Group  
Meetings

15:00 > Stockpile Destruction  
18:00

> Victim Assistance  
and Socio-Economic  
Reintegration

> Mine Clearance,  
Mine Risk Education  
and Mine Action  
Technologies

> Mine Clearance,  
Mine Risk Education  
and Mine Action  
Technologies

> General Status  
and Operation  
of the Convention

18:00  
+

> Reception hosted by  
the Director of the  
GICHD

### Notes

- > In keeping with past practice, the programme for the week will be structured to include discussion items on numerous specific topics of interest to the States Parties. Participants, therefore, are encouraged to participate actively in discussions on these specific topics and to *refrain from making statements of a general nature*.
- > The principle of *flexibility will be applied with respect to time allocations* (e.g., if one Standing Committee meeting uses less than its allocated time the subsequent Standing Committee could immediately commence).
- > States Parties that are asked to provide updates on implementation are encouraged to *provide only new information*.

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- > Standing committee on victim assistance and socio-economic reintegration **7**
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### WEDNESDAY | APRIL 25 2007

- > Standing committee on mine clearance, mine risk education and mine action technologies **10**

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- > Standing committee on mine clearance, mine risk education and mine action technologies **12**

### FRIDAY | APRIL 27 2007

- > Standing committee on victim assistance and socio-economic reintegration **14**
- > Standing committee on the general status and operation of the convention **14**

## OPENING OF THE WEEK OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### 10:00 | Opening of the week of meetings

The week of meetings will be opened by the President of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP), Ambassador Caroline Millar of Australia, and by the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Ambassador Stephan Nellen.

**Note:** (a) Participants are encouraged to participate actively in discussions on specific topics and *to refrain from making statements of a general nature*. (b) The principle of *flexibility will be applied with respect to time allocations* (e.g., if one Standing Committee meeting uses less than its allocated time the subsequent Standing Committee meeting could immediately commence). (c) States Parties providing updates on implementation are encouraged to *provide only new information*.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION

### 10:15 | Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs (Argentina and Italy) have prepared a programme that covers four areas of work: (i) an overall assessment of the status of the pursuit of the Convention's core aims; (ii) discussions on matters of cross-cutting interest to all Standing Committees; (iii) ongoing consideration of the implementation of various articles of the Convention which have traditionally been discussed by this Standing Committee; and, (iv) updates on the work of various implementation mechanisms.

### Overview of the general status of implementation: Update on the pursuit of the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan and the priorities contained in the Geneva Progress Report

The President of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP) will review progress made to date in the pursuit of the 70 action points contained in the *Nairobi Action Plan* and the various priorities recorded in the *Geneva Progress Report*, and, in the application of the 7MSP President's *Action Plan to Universalise and Implement the Convention*.

### Overview of the general status of universalization

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that during the period 2005 to 2009, universal adherence to the Convention "will remain an important object of cooperation among States Parties."<sup>1</sup> The *Geneva Progress Report* reemphasised this matter, stating that "*States Parties must turn their commitment to universalization into action.*"

<sup>1</sup> Nairobi Action Plan, paragraph 2.

The Coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group (Canada) will provide an overview of steps taken since the 7MSP to promote universalization. As well, the Co-Chairs hope that other relevant actors will take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the discussion on universalization.

- > Contact Group Coordinator's update.
- > Opportunity for States not parties which have taken steps towards ratification of, or accession to, the Convention to provide updates or make announcements regarding the date when they intend to join the Convention.
- > Opportunity for States Parties and organizations that have contributed to universalization efforts to provide updates on their activities.

### **The mobilisation of resources to achieve the Convention's aims**

In the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the States Parties recognized that fulfilling their obligations during the period 2005-2009 and effectively pursuing the actions and strategies set out in the *Nairobi Action Plan* will require substantial political, financial and material commitments.<sup>2</sup> To further advance efforts in accordance with the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the *Geneva Progress Report* recorded a number of key issues identified since the 6MSP by the Resource Mobilisation Contact Group and called for the Contact Group "to develop a programme of work that places a clear focus on mine action efficiency and effectiveness" and to be "guided by needs on the ground and ensure all relevant voices are heard in dialogues on this matter."

The Coordinator of the Contact Group (Norway) will provide an update on ongoing discussions on all facets related to mobilising and efficiently using resources to implement the Convention and others are invited to provide updates and share views.

- > Contact Group Coordinator's update.
- > Opportunity for States Parties and others to provide updates on the application of actions in the *Nairobi Action Plan* that concern all facets of resource mobilisation as well as on work undertaken in the context of matters noted in the *Geneva Progress Report*.

### **Transparency and the exchange of information**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* urges the States Parties that have not yet done so to fulfil their obligation to provide initial transparency reports under Article 7 without further delay and calls upon all States Parties to fulfil their obligations to annually update Article 7 transparency reports and maximise reporting as a tool to assist in implementation.<sup>3</sup> With respect to this matter, the *Geneva Progress Report* emphasised that "States Parties must continue to or improve as appropriate their compliance with Article 7 obligations, particularly those States Parties that are destroying stockpiled mines, clearing mined areas, retaining anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 3 and /or undertaking measures in accordance with Article 9."

<sup>2</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #13, #14, #23, #25, #26, #27, #36, #43, #44, #45, #46, #47 and #50.

<sup>3</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #51 and #52.

The Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group (Belgium) will provide an overview of efforts related to transparency reporting and others are invited to provide updates and share views.

- > Contact Group Coordinator's update.
- > Opportunity for States Parties and others to provide updates on the application of actions in the *Nairobi Action Plan* that concern transparency and the exchange of information as well as on work undertaken in the context of relevant priorities recorded in the *Geneva Progress Report*.

### **Article 3 | Updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques (time permitting)**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that “transparency and the open exchange of information have been essential pillars on which the Convention’s practices, procedures and tradition of partnership have been built,” and, that “the States Parties recognize that transparency and effective information exchange will be equally crucial to fulfilling their obligations during the period 2005-2009.”<sup>4</sup> To this end, the States Parties agreed to a number of actions, including that “all States Parties will (...) in situations where States Parties have retained mines in accordance with the exceptions in Article 3, provide information on the plans requiring the retention of mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques and report on the actual use of retained mines and the results of such use.”<sup>5</sup>

To assist States Parties in applying Action #54 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the States Parties at the 6MSP agreed to amend the Article 7 reporting format, thus creating a means for States Parties to share information in addition to what is minimally required on mines retained in accordance with Article 3. At the 7MSP, it was reported that 9 States Parties made use of this amended format in 2006 and that 17 States Parties volunteered information during the Intersessional Work Programme.

To further support the application of Action #54, the Co-Chairs have distributed a series of questions to relevant States Parties to assist them in acting in accordance with Action #54. (Document 2.a.)

- > Opportunity for those States Parties which have reported mines retained for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share information on their plans requiring the retention of mines in accordance with Article 3, the actual use of these mines and the results of this use. (See Document 2.a.)
- > Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported that they have not retained mines for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share their experiences.
- > Opportunity for comments, questions and discussion.

**13:00 | Meeting adjourns until Friday 27 April at 11:30**

<sup>4</sup> Nairobi Action Plan, paragraph 7.

<sup>5</sup> Nairobi Action Plan, Action #54.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

### 15:00 | Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

Between the end of the 7MSP and 1 April 2007, it is expected that 2 additional States Parties will have fulfilled their stockpile destruction obligations thus resulting in a total of 143 States Parties which either never held anti-personnel mines or now no longer hold them. However 10 States Parties will remain in the process of destroying their stockpiled anti-personnel mines and some may need assistance in destroying large stockpiles. In addition, some States Parties have not yet provided an Article 7 transparency report to confirm that no stockpiles are in their possession. During the meeting, the Co-Chairs (Algeria and Estonia) hope that all relevant States Parties will provide updates on efforts to fulfill stockpile destruction obligations and that others will share their views on the implementation of Article 4 and their plans to provide assistance.

### Overview of the status of stockpile destruction

- > Co-Chairs' presentation on progress in implementing Article 4.
- > Views of the ICBL on the state of implementation.

### Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation

The *Nairobi Action Plan* states that the States Parties that have not yet completed their anti-personnel stockpile destruction programmes will: establish the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed, and report this information as required by Article 7; establish appropriate national and local capacities to meet their Article 4 obligations; strive to complete their destruction programmes if possible in advance of their four-year deadlines; and, make their problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance known in a timely manner.<sup>6</sup>

It is the Co-Chairs' hope that relevant States Parties will use the opportunity presented by the Standing Committee meeting, as is suggested in the *Nairobi Action Plan*, to share information on their "problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance."

- > Opportunity for an update by States Parties<sup>7</sup> which, between the 7MSP and the Standing Committee meeting, will have completed their stockpile destruction programmes. (See Document 2.b.)
- > Opportunity for updates by those States Parties<sup>8</sup> which are in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 4 of the Convention. (See Document 2.b.)
- > Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by States Parties which have recently completed destruction programmes or which are in the process of fulfilling Article 4 obligations.

<sup>6</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #9, #10, #11 and #12.

<sup>7</sup> Afghanistan and Angola.

<sup>8</sup> Belarus, Burundi, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Greece, Indonesia, Serbia, Sudan, Turkey and Ukraine.

### **Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of transparency reporting**

The *Geneva Progress Report* emphasised as a priority that those “States Parties that have not reported their stockpile status as required under Article 7 should do so.” The Co-Chairs hope, therefore, that relevant States Parties will provide updates on the status of the preparation of their initial transparency reports, particularly with respect to reporting on the existence or absence of stockpiled anti-personnel mines under their control or jurisdiction.

- > Opportunity for updates by States Parties that have not yet confirmed their stockpile status in an Article 7 transparency report.

### **The destruction of previously unknown stockpiles**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* states, in Action #15, that “all States Parties will, when previously unknown stockpiles are discovered after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed, report such discoveries in accordance with their obligations under Article 7, take advantage of other informal means to share such information and destroy these mines as a matter of urgency.” It is the Co-Chairs’ hope that relevant States Parties will provide updates on this matter as it concerns weapons caches that include anti-personnel mines which have been discovered in, or otherwise have come under the control of, a State Party since the completion of its stockpile destruction programme.

In addition, the *Geneva Progress Report* recorded, on the one hand, that “it was suggested that Form G of the Article 7 reporting format could be amended to facilitate reporting,” and, on the other hand, that “others suggested that Form G in its current format seems sufficient to handle these situations.” The Co-Chairs would appreciate any further views on this matter.

- > Opportunity for updates by States Parties on anti-personnel mines discovered after the completion of destruction programmes.
- > Opportunity to share views on Form G of the Article 7 reporting format.

**18:00 | Meeting adjourns until Tuesday 24 April at 10:00**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION****10:00 | Cooperation and assistance in the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* states that States Parties in a position to do so will: “act upon their obligations under Article 6.5 to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for stockpile destruction, responding to priorities for assistance as articulated by those States Parties in need,” and, “support the investigation and further development of technical solutions to overcome the particular challenges associated with destroying PFM mines.”<sup>9</sup> The *Geneva Progress Report* further emphasised this point noting that “the Convention community must respond to appeals for technical or other assistance.” To assess the status of the application of this portion of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, it is the Co-Chairs’ hope that those States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines will provide updates.

- > Opportunity for updates by States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for stockpile destruction.

**Matters of a thematic nature related to stockpile destruction**

The States Parties have previously highlighted challenges in a number of thematic areas concerning the fulfillment of Article 4 obligations. The Co-Chairs intend to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on thematic matters of interest to delegations.

- > Opportunity for an exchange of views on thematic matters concerning the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

**Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs****11:30 | Meeting ends****STANDING COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION<sup>10</sup>****11:30 | Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs & introduction to the work of victim assistance experts during the week of Standing Committee meetings**

The Co-Chairs’ (Austria and Sudan) primary aim is to support further progress in the fulfilment of the commitment that all States Parties made in the *Nairobi Action Plan* to enhance our efforts in regard to the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors. This is particularly important for the 24 States Parties that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers – hundreds or thousands, if not tens-of-thousands – of landmine survivors.

<sup>9</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #13 and #14.

<sup>10</sup> Note that given the principle of flexibility with respect to the application of the programme, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration may start earlier than 11:30 on 24 April if the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction completes its work before that time.

## Overview of the status of implementation

- > Presentation by the Co-Chairs.

### Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation

As the ultimate responsibility of meeting the needs of landmine survivors within a particular State rests with that State, no external actor can define for it what can or should be achieved by when and how in meeting the needs of these survivors. Since the First Review Conference, many of the 24 relevant States Parties made significant advances toward defining these matters. However, the *Geneva Progress Report* recorded that in 2006 “efforts to advance national planning and objective-setting through inter-ministerial coordination showed that these are challenging tasks for States Parties.” In addition, the *Geneva Progress Report* noted that “States Parties need to ensure efficient and effective use of resources, particularly where capacity and resources to develop and implement objectives and national plans are limited.”

- > Opportunity for updates by those States Parties that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers of landmine survivors.<sup>11</sup> (See Document 2.c.)
- > Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers of landmine survivors.
- > Opportunity for updates from other States Parties and from States not parties.

## 13:00 | Break for lunch

## 15:00 | Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation (continued)

### Cooperation and assistance in providing for the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors

The *Geneva Progress Report* noted a “two track approach to cooperation on victim assistance,” involving “assistance provided by or through specialised organisations in which assistance specifically targets landmine survivors and other war wounded, and, assistance in the form of integrated approaches in which development cooperation aims to guarantee the rights of all individuals, including persons with disabilities.” The *Geneva Progress Report* further stated that “while many States Parties have provided information on efforts regarding the former, very little has been provided to indicate efforts that will ultimately benefit landmine survivors are being undertaken through integrated development cooperation.”

<sup>11</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda and Yemen.

It is the Co-Chairs' desire that more States Parties provide examples of how, through broader bilateral cooperation relationships, they are fulfilling their obligations under Article 6.3 of the Convention to "provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims." To assist, the Co-Chairs have prepared a questionnaire for donors which are parties to the Convention. In addition, the Co-Chairs wish to provide an opportunity for organisations involved in efforts that specifically target populations of persons with disabilities which include concentrations of landmine survivors to provide updates.

- > Opportunity for updates by States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of landmine victims. (See Document 2.d.)
- > Opportunity for updates by organizations involved in the provision of assistance.

**18:00 | Meeting adjourns until Friday 27 April at 10:00**

**RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE GICHD**

- > Location | Attique Restaurant | WMO building

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINE CLEARANCE, MINE RISK EDUCATION AND MINE ACTION TECHNOLOGIES

### 10:00 | Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs' (Chile and Norway) aim is to pursue work in four areas: (i) providing an opportunity for clear updates from the 45 States Parties that are still in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations; (ii) providing an opportunity for updates from those in a position to provide assistance, (iii) finalising work related to and assessing the status of the process agreed to at the 7MSP concerning requests for extensions on the fulfilment of Article 5 obligations, and, (iv) enhancing understanding of efficient and effective means available to implement Article 5 including in a manner that takes into account good practices with respect to gender and mine action.

### Overview of the status of implementation of Article 5

> Co-Chairs' presentation on progress in implementing Article 5.

### Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation

Although almost eight years have passed since entry into force for many States Parties, in some instances little information has been provided on the fulfilment of the first sequential obligation contained in Article 5 – the identification of areas “in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced.” Accordingly, in many instances it is unknown what efforts have been undertaken to “ensure the effective exclusion of civilians” from areas containing anti-personnel mines “until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed,” and what remains to be done “to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas.”

It is important that clarity be provided on these matter in a timely manner in order for all States Parties to clearly understand progress made and challenges that remain in implementing Article 5. The Co-Chairs have distributed a questionnaire as a means to assist the 45 States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations in providing such clarity. The Co-Chairs hope that if the 45 relevant States Parties provide information as is suggested, the States Parties as a whole will have a better sense of the steps that are being taken to meet expectations in the implementation of Article 5.

> Opportunity for updates by those States Parties<sup>12</sup> which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5 of the Convention (See Document 2.e.)

**Note:** Given that many States Parties have already provided comprehensive background presentations on the situations in their countries, the Co-Chairs kindly request that only new information be provided to the Standing Committee.

<sup>12</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guinea Bissau, Jordan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

- > Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations.

**Note:** After each 6 to 7 States Parties have provided updates, the Co-Chairs will provide an opportunity for comments and questions. Hence, the representatives of the States Parties concerned are advised to stay in the room for the discussion session related to their presentations.

**13:00 | Break for lunch**

**15:00 | Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation (continued)**

- > Opportunity for updates by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5 of the Convention (See Document 2.e.)
- > Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations.

**18:00 | Meeting adjourns until Thursday 26 April at 10:00**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINE CLEARANCE, MINE RISK EDUCATION AND MINE ACTION TECHNOLOGIES

### 10:00 | Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation (continued, if necessary)

- > Opportunity for updates by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5 of the Convention (See Document 2.e.)
- > Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations.

### Update on the process related to requesting extensions on Article 5 obligation

At the 7MSP, the States Parties agreed to a process of requesting extensions in accordance with Article 5. This included decisions “to encourage States Parties seeking Article 5 extensions to submit their request to the President no fewer than nine months before the (Meeting) at which the decision on the request would need to be taken” and to encourage States Parties “as necessary, to seek assistance from the Implementation Support Unit in the preparation of their requests.” Given that the agreements of the 7MSP imply that several States Parties are encouraged to submit their requests perhaps as early as mid-December 2007, some States Parties may have commenced with work on their extension requests. (See document 2.f.) The Co-Chairs would like to provide these States Parties with an opportunity to present their works in progress and others with an opportunity to offer constructive suggestions.

- > Opportunity for relevant States Parties to present work-in-progress on extension requests.
- > Opportunity for comments and questions.

In addition with respect to the Article 5 extensions request process, the 7MSP agreed to work further on a voluntary template proposed at the 7MSP as the basis to facilitate preparation and assessment of extension requests, with a view to its finalisation by the conclusion of the 2007 intersessional meetings, in order to enable its consideration at the 8MSP. In November, Canada, the drafter of the original proposal, held an informal meeting to seek views on the voluntary template. Canada concluded that to the best of its ability views presented at that meeting and in the lead-up to it could be incorporated into a revised proposed template which could be adopted by the 8MSP.

- > Opportunity for any final views on the revised proposed template. (See document 2.g.)

### 13:00 | Break for lunch

### 15:00 | Cooperation and assistance in clearing mined areas

Action #23 of the *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that “States Parties in a position to do so will act upon their obligations under Article 6.3 and 6.4 to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for mine clearance and mine risk education, responding to the priorities for assistance as articulated by the mine-affected States Parties themselves and ensuring the continuity and sustainability of resource commitments.”

In addition, the First Review Conference, noted the challenge of ensuring a renewed commitment “through means such as dedicated funds to assist in the implementation of the Convention and by mainstreaming support to mine action through broader humanitarian, development, peace-building and peace support programmes.”<sup>13</sup> Given this agreed language, States Parties in a position to do so may wish to provide updates on the basis of questions developed by the Co-Chairs.

- > Opportunity for updates by States Parties and others in a position to assist those in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations. (See document 2.h.)

### **Enhancing understanding of efficient and effective means available to implement Article 5**

The *Geneva Progress Report* noted that the use of various means could lead to more efficient implementation of Article 5, including techniques for rapidly releasing previously suspect land thereby enabling more efficient deployment of demining assets to mined areas, and, policies to cancel, with confidence, suspect hazardous areas. Such means may be of particular interest in cases where various survey activities have overstated the magnitude of challenges faced. To promote greater understanding of steps that States Parties could take to proceed with implementation of Article 5 in a more efficient and effective manner, the Co-Chairs will provide an open discussion on topics such as means and methods for more rapidly releasing land, policies and practices for cancelling suspected hazard areas, and good practices in quality assurance.

- > Scene-setting presentations and sharing of experiences and views on specific efficient and effective means to implement Article 5.

### **Other matters of a thematic nature related to fulfilling Article 5 obligations**

This Standing Committee traditionally has provided an opportunity for updates on other thematic matters related to fulfilling Article 5 obligations, including mine risk education and mine action technologies. It also provides the opportunity for discussions on relevant matters not previously considered in any detail by the Standing Committee, including the matter of gender and mine action.

- > Opportunity for updates on other matters of a thematic nature related to fulfilling Article 5 obligations.

### **Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs**

**18:00 | Meeting ends**

<sup>13</sup> Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention 1999-2004, paragraph 91.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION

### 10:00 | Update on the activities of victim assistance experts

The *Geneva Progress Report* recorded that “in keeping with Actions #38 and #39 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, which call on States Parties and relevant organizations to continue to ensure effective integration of mine victims in the work of the Convention and an effective contribution in all relevant deliberations by health, rehabilitation and social services professionals, at least 9 States Parties included relevant victim assistance specialists in their delegations to the May 2006 meetings of the Standing Committees.” At the 7MSP, this number increased to 17. It is the Co-Chairs’ intention to make the best possible use of the time dedicated by such professionals to the work of the Convention. To this end, the Co-Chairs have prepared a week-long series of activities for these representatives.

- > Update by victim assistance experts on briefings and meetings held during the week of Standing Committee meetings.

### Update on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The *Geneva Progress Report* indicated that “efforts continued (between the 6MSP and 7MSP) to strengthen the normative framework that protects and ensures respect for the rights of persons with disabilities including landmine survivors through the participation by many States Parties and interested organizations in the ongoing drafting of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.” Since the 7MSP, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted and opened for signature. This instrument may provide guidance to States Parties in meeting their responsibilities to landmine survivors.

- > Update on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its relationship to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

### Matters of a thematic nature related to victim assistance

- > Opportunity for an exchange of views on thematic matters concerning victim assistance.

### Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs

### 11:30 | Meeting ends

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION

### 11:30 | Article 3 | Plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques (continued, if necessary) see page 4

- > Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported mines retained for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share information on their plans requiring the retention of mines in accordance with Article 3, the actual use of these mines and the results of this use. (See Document 2.a.)

- > Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported that they have not retained mines for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share their experiences.
- > Opportunity for comments, questions and discussion.

### Article 9 | The development and adoption of legislative, administrative and other measures

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that “primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Convention rests with each State Party. Article 9 of the Convention accordingly requires each party to take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress prohibited activities by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction and control.”<sup>14</sup> To this end, it was agreed, inter alia, that the States Parties which have not yet done so will “develop and adopt legislative, administrative and other measures in accordance with Article 9 as soon as possible to fulfil their obligations under this Article thereby contributing to full compliance with the Convention report annually on progress as required by Article 7.”<sup>15</sup> With respect to this matter, the *Geneva Progress Report* recorded that 74 States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention “have not yet reported having adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations or that they consider existing laws to be sufficient.”

With respect to Article 9, it is also important to recall that the First Review Conference recorded that “in addition to reporting legal measures, some States Parties have reported other measures mentioned in Article 9 to prevent and suppress prohibited activities. These measures include the systematic dissemination of information regarding the Convention’s prohibitions to their armed forces, the development of armed forces training bulletins, the distribution of the text of the Convention in military academies and directives issued to police forces. However, few States Parties have reported taking measures as these or otherwise harmonising military doctrine with the Convention’s obligations. Thus, it will be an ongoing challenge for most States Parties to ensure that such measures to prevent and suppress prohibited activities - in addition to legal measures - are taken and reported upon.”<sup>16</sup>

- > Presentation by the ICRC on the status of implementation of Article 9.
- > Opportunity for updates by those States Parties in the process of developing and adopting legislative, administrative and other measures in accordance with Article 9, and, if relevant, to make their needs known if assistance is required. (See document 2.i.)

### The practical implementation of the various other provisions of the Convention

The *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that the States Parties will “exchange views and share their experiences in a cooperative and informal manner on the practical implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, including Articles 1, 2 and 3, to continue to promote effective and consistent application of these provisions.”<sup>17</sup>

- > Opportunity for updates and an exchange of views on the practical implementation of other provisions of the Convention.

### 13:00 | Break for lunch

<sup>14</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, paragraph 8.

<sup>15</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #59.

<sup>16</sup> *Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 1999-2004*, paragraph 123.

<sup>17</sup> *Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 1999-2004*, paragraph 123.

**15:00 | The practical implementation of the various other provisions of the Convention (continued, if necessary)**

- > Opportunity for updates and an exchange of views on the practical implementation of other provisions of the Convention.

**Updates by Contact Group Coordinators**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that “all States Parties will (...) continue to utilize informal mechanisms such as the Contact Groups, which have emerged to meet specific needs.”<sup>18</sup> During the week of meetings of the Standing Committees, the Contact Groups undoubtedly will be extremely active and may be in a position to provide updates on their work.

- > Opportunity for updates to be provided by Contact Group Coordinators.

**Preparations for the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties**

In keeping with past practice, the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention will serve as a forum for views to be shared with respect to various procedural matters concerning the next Meeting of the States Parties. These matters include a draft agenda, a draft programme, draft rules of procedure and draft cost estimates for the Meeting of the States Parties. (See Document 2.j, Document 2.k and Document 2.l.)

- > Presentation by the 8MSP President-Designate on suggestions for the approach to be taken with respect to the 8MSP and on draft rules of procedure.
- > Presentation by the 8MSP host country on organizational matters concerning the 8MSP.
- > Presentation by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs on draft cost estimates for the 8MSP and on other organizational matters. (See Document 2.l.)

**Matters pertaining to the general operations of the Convention**

In keeping with past practice, the Standing Committee will provide an opportunity for updates on various matters concerning the general operations of the Convention, including updates on the activities of the Coordinating Committee (7MSP President), the Implementation Support Unit (Director of the GICHD and the Manager of the Implementation Support Unit), and, the Sponsorship Programme (United Kingdom).

With respect to the Implementation Support Unit and the Sponsorship Programme, the Co-Chairs wish to recall that in the *Nairobi Action Plan*, it was agreed that States Parties will “continue to provide on a voluntary basis, in accordance with their agreement with the GICHD, the necessary financial resources for the operation of the Implementation Support Unit”, and, “on a voluntary basis contribute to the Sponsorship Programme.”<sup>19</sup>

- > Opportunity for comments on the work of various implementation mechanisms and to make announcements of support to the Implementation Support Unit Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Programme.

**Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs****CLOSING OF THE WEEK OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS****17:30 | Remarks by the Director of the GICHD****18:00 | Week of Standing Committee meetings ends**

<sup>18</sup> Nairobi Action Plan, Action #69.

<sup>19</sup> Nairobi Action Plan, #67 and #70.



**Convention signing ceremony** | Ottawa | 3 December 1997



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