



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

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

CO-CHAIRS' NOTES TO MEETING PARTICIPANTS

3 and 7 February 2003

Introduction:

In 2002-2003, the Co-Chairs intend to continue to focus on progress in and challenges related to achieving the core humanitarian aims of the Convention. On 3 February 2003, the week of Standing Committee meetings will begin with a session of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention in order to provide an overview of and discuss: key areas of implementation; efforts to universalise the Convention, mobilising resources to achieve the Convention's humanitarian aims, and the importance of the exchange of information under Article 7. Time permitting on 3 February, the Co-Chairs will also call for updates on the activities of the Coordinating Committee, Implementation Support Unit and Sponsorship Programme. On 7 February, the Co-Chairs will provide an opportunity for discussions on matters pertaining to Articles 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9 of the Convention. The Co-Chairs encourage States Parties to continue sharing information related to these Articles with a view to obtaining further clarity and understanding regarding their application.

Annotated Agenda

Monday 3 February

11:15 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

Overview of the general status of implementation

This agenda item is intended to assess progress in, and challenges related to, the achievement of the Convention's humanitarian aims, and in doing so, set the scene for the week of Standing Committee meetings. The President of the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties will lead this item by providing an overview of the general status of implementation and progress in applying the President's Action Programme.

Overview of the general status of universalization

At the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties, the Coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group reported that the Contact Group had: discussed on ways to make use of a variety of multilateral and regional forums to promote acceptance of the Convention; noted of the value of partnership between States Parties and with the ICBL, ICRC and United Nations; and, emphasized the importance of a military to military dialogue. This agenda item will focus on progress made in these areas, in part through an update by the coordinator of the Contact Group as well as through a panel presentation by a variety of actors involved in universalization efforts. In addition, this agenda item provides an opportunity for interventions by States Parties and others involved in universalization efforts, and for States not parties to the Convention to provide updates with respect to their plans to join the Convention.

13:00 Break for lunch

15:00 Mobilising resources to achieve the Convention's humanitarian aims

The Fourth Meeting of the State Parties held a discussion on the need to mobilise the necessary resources to ensure that the Convention lives up to its humanitarian promise. Norway offered to facilitate the work of an open-ended Contact Group on Resource Mobilisation to examine all aspects of how to secure sufficient resources to support the implementation of the Convention. The purpose of this agenda item is to illustrate some of key aspects of resource mobilisation. (Note: The Contact Group on Resource Mobilisation will hold its first meeting on the margins of the 3-7 February Standing Committee meetings.)

Overview of Article 7 Reporting

This agenda item is designed to assess the current state of reporting under Article 7. The Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group will provide an update. In 2001-2002 the Standing Committees noted the importance of Article 7 reporting in providing valuable information to both support cooperation and assess progress. In addition, mine affected States Parties were encouraged to maximise the potential of Article 7 reporting by using it as a tool to communicate to other States Parties their plans, challenges and needs regarding mine clearance, victim assistance and stockpile destruction.

Matters pertaining to the general operations of the Convention

Updates will be provided on the activities of the Coordinating Committee, the Implementation Support Unit and the Sponsorship Programme.

18:00 Standing Committee adjourns until 7 February.

Friday 7 February

10:45 Reconvening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

Update by Contact Group Coordinators (if necessary)

Contact Group Coordinators on Universalization, Resource Mobilization and Article 7 & 9, if necessary, will provide updates on the outcome of Contact Group meetings held during the week of 3-7 February.

Preparations for the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties

In continuing with past practice, the Co-Chairs will seek views on a draft agenda, programme, rules of procedure and cost estimates for the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties, which will be held in Bangkok 15-19 September 2003. In addition, the Co-Chairs will call upon Thailand to provide an update on logistical arrangements for the Fifth Meeting.

Experiences in implementing Article 1

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for States Parties to share information regarding their understanding of Article 1.

Experiences in implementing Article 2

This agenda item has been scheduled to provide States Parties with an opportunity to continue to share views on how Article 2 of the Convention is being implemented, in legal and / or operational terms.

Addressing the humanitarian impact of mines that may pose similar risks to civilian populations as anti-personnel mines.

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for States Parties to share steps taken, and to discuss possible approaches including best practices, to reduce the humanitarian impact of mines that may pose similar risks to civilian populations as anti-personnel mines.

13:00 Break for lunch

15:00 Updates on implementation of Article 3

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide States Parties with an opportunity to further clarify the reasons why mines are retained for training and development under Article 3.

Update on the dialogue related to the facilitation and clarification of compliance

In 2001-2002, the Co-Chairs recommended that the ongoing dialogue on facilitation and compliance should continue in an open-ended format and that Canada should continue in its role in facilitating this dialogue. Canada will therefore provide an update on this dialogue.

Matters pertaining to compliance concerns

The purpose of the agenda item is to provide a opportunity for dialogue on the need to further clarify actions to be taken in the event that serious allegations of non-compliance are made.

Updates on implementation of Article 9

States Parties are encouraged to use this agenda item to provide updates on efforts taken with respect to the provisions of Article 9 and to express needs as regards developing national implementing legislation.

Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs, President and the Director of the GICHD

18:00 Meeting ends.