



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

### INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAMME 2002-2003

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#### **Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies Summary Report of the 5 February 2003 Meeting**

- Pursuant to the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention (4MSP), the meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Awareness and Mine Action Technologies was convened by its Co-Chairs, Ambassador Jean Lint of Belgium and Mr. Michael Oyugi of Kenya, with support of their Co-Rapporteurs, H.E. Ambassador Sam Sotha of Cambodia and Col. Toru Takahashi of Japan.
- It was highlighted that, to date, a total of 36 States Parties have reported mined areas, that 10 States Parties who have not yet provided Article 7 Reports are likely to be mine affected, that out of these 46 mine-affected States Parties, Costa Rica is the first to have been declared mine-free in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, and that 25 of the remaining 45 mine-affected States Parties have a deadline of 2009 for mine-clearance.
- A total of 19 States Parties provided updates on the status of implementation of the Article 5 provisions. Most of these States Parties noted that they would complete implementation on or prior to deadlines, as imposed by Article 5 of the Convention. Others noted that they faced challenges with regard to assistance, and the importance of continued assistance from donor countries was stressed. In addition to updates provided by these States Parties, one State not Party (Libya) expressed concerns regarding security and responsibility with regard to the Convention.
- A total of 3 States Parties provided updates on cooperation and assistance efforts and initiatives that they are undertaking to assist implementation of Article 5 of the Convention, including the establishment of special funds to support mine action. In addition to reports by these States Parties, several non-governmental, international and other organisations highlighted initiatives, programmes, and constructive ways in which they are providing cooperation and assistance to States Parties.
- Cambodia made a detailed presentation on its efforts in the area of demining, indicating challenges and difficulties faced, and outlining new initiatives, strategies and activities which have been undertaken or are planned in order to deal with such difficulties. In this context, it was reported that Cambodia will host a Regional Seminar in March on cooperation with regard to mine action.
- The Standing Committee discussed technical assistance with reports on the implementation of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) which is currently being evaluated, the establishment of the Mine Action Information Centre (MAIC), and various other projects. A presentation was made on ongoing work in mine action technologies.