



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' suggestions on ways to prepare for the 9 February Standing Committee meeting\***

**Introduction**

The Standing Committee in 2003-2004 will continue to focus on progress in and challenges related to the pursuit of the Convention's core humanitarian aims and provide a forum for an informal exchange of views and experiences regarding various Articles of the Convention. In addition, the Co-Chairs will provide time for updates on various implementation mechanisms.

**The general status of implementation**

The Fifth Meeting of the States Parties (5MSP) took note of the challenges that remain in achieving the Convention's core humanitarian aims, expressing the will to continue to focus with greater clarity in the period leading to the First Review Conference on those areas most directly related to the core humanitarian aims of the Convention: clearing mined land, assisting victims, destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines and universalizing the Convention's comprehensive prohibition on anti-personnel mines. The 5MSP also warmly welcomed the President's Action Programme as a practical means of focusing collective efforts in achieving the Convention's core humanitarian aims. On 9 February, the 5MSP President will provide an update on the general status of the pursuit of the Convention's core aims and of the application of the President's Action Programme.

**The general status of universalization**

At the 5MSP, States Parties underscored the importance of universalization and expressed appreciation for the work of the Universalization Contact Group. In addition, States Parties noted the value of military-to-military dialogue, the efforts of parliamentarians and regional initiatives to promote universalization. Also, it was proposed that an informal reflection group discuss the issue of non-State actors and separately it was proposed that discussions on the issue of non-State actors take place within the Universalization Contact Group. Several delegations, while emphasizing the importance of addressing the issue, stressed that at this point discussions should take place outside the framework of the Convention. On 9 February, the relevant Contact Group Coordinator will provide an update on universalization efforts, followed by discussion on this topic.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *States Parties and organizations may wish to provide updates on efforts to promote universal acceptance of the Convention.*
- *States not parties may wish to provide updates with respect to their efforts to proceed with formal acceptance of the Convention.*

**Resource mobilisation**

The 5MSP called upon: States Parties in a position to do so to renew their commitment to ensure sustainability of resources necessary to implement the Convention; mine-affected States Parties, United Nations funds, agencies and programmes, the World Bank and regional development banks, international and national non-governmental organizations to integrate mine action into all relevant humanitarian and development activities; and all States Parties and relevant organizations to share information on matters pertaining to resource mobilization in advance of the First Review Conference. On 9 February, the relevant Contact Group Coordinator will provide an update, followed by discussion on the topic of resource mobilisation.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *States Parties and others may wish to share of views on: the place of mine action within development strategies; best practices to ensure that mine action funds are well spent; and, prospective Review Conference outcomes on resource mobilization matters.*

### **Article 7 reporting**

At the 5MSP, States Parties were encouraged to place a renewed emphasis on ensuring reports were submitted as required in advance of the First Review Conference. In addition, States Parties were encouraged to submit reports electronically and to maximize the potential of the reporting format as an important tool to measure progress and communicate needs. On 9 February, the relevant Contact Group Coordinator will provide an update, followed by discussion on the topic of Article 7 reporting.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *States Parties which have not yet provided an initial Article 7 report or an annual update in 2003 may wish to provide updates on the status of efforts to provide these reports.*
- *States Parties and relevant organizations may wish to share ways that they can assist other States Parties in submitting reports in a timely and complete manner.*

### **Experiences in implementing Articles 1, 2 and 3**

The 5MSP took note of how informal discussions on various articles of the Convention have improved clarity and understanding. In this regard, the meeting called upon States Parties to continue to share information and views, particularly with respect to Articles 1, 2 and 3, with a view to developing understandings on various matters by the First Review Conference. On 9 February, opportunities will be provided for States Parties to share views and experiences.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *States Parties may wish to share views or practices being employed regarding the implementation of these three Articles.*

### **The Convention's compliance provisions**

In the declaration adopted at the 5MSP, the States Parties acknowledged, that in the event of serious concerns of non-compliance with any of the obligations of the Convention, their individual responsibility as States Parties to apply the measures that they are obliged to take in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention to prevent or suppress prohibited activities. In addition, the States Parties acknowledged their responsibility to seek clarification of concerns of non-compliance in a cooperative spirit in accordance with Article 8.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *States Parties may wish to provide updates on legal administrative and other measures taken in accordance with Article 9.*
- *States Parties and relevant organizations may wish to share ways that they can assist other States Parties in taking measures in accordance with Article 9.*

### **The general operations of the Convention**

In keeping with past practice, on 9 February updates will be provided on the Coordinating Committee, the Implementation Support Unit and the Sponsorship Programme.

---

\* This document merely contains suggestions regarding ways to maximize opportunities for participation presented by the Standing Committee. It is well understood that all Standing Committee participants – States Parties, States not parties and organizations – are free to intervene on any agenda item in any manner they wish.