



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 21 / 25 June Standing Committee meeting*

Introduction

In June the Standing Committee 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 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 means to focus collective efforts in achieving the Convention's core aims. On 21 June, the 5MSP President will provide an update on the status of the pursuit of the Convention's core aims and of the application of the President's Action Programme.

Updates on regional conferences held since the last Standing Committee meeting

The President's Action Programme noted the value of regional efforts in promoting universalization and implementation of the Convention. Since the February meeting of the Standing Committee, four regional conferences have been hosted by States Parties and thus an opportunity will be provided for these States Parties to share brief updates.

The general status of universalization

The 5MSP underscored the importance of universalization and expressed appreciation for the work of the Universalization Contact Group. In addition, the 5MSP President has set a target of 150 ratifications / accessions in time for the First Review Conference. On 21 June, the Contact Group Coordinator will provide an update on universalization efforts.

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 and other relevant actors to integrate mine action into all 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 21 June, the relevant Contact Group Coordinator will provide an update, followed by discussion on this topic.

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

In February, States Parties were reminded of their reporting obligations (particularly the 30 April 2004 deadline for providing annual reports) and challenged to ensure a 100 percent reporting rate in the lead up to the First Review Conference. On 21 June, the Contact Group Coordinator will provide an update on 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 2004 may wish to provide updates on the status of efforts to provide these reports.*

Experiences in implementing Articles 1, 2 and 3

The 5MSP 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. In February, one of the Co-Chairs said that he would suggest elements for common understandings on Articles 1, 2 and 3 which States Parties may wish to accept at the Review Conference. In addition, the Co-Chair presented a non-paper on possible elements for a common understanding on Article 1 regarding the word "assist".

Suggestions on ways to prepare:

- *States Parties may wish to share views on these Articles.*
- *States Parties which may wish to provide updates on mines retained or transferred in accordance with Article 3.*

The Convention's compliance provisions

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, they 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 others 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 25 June updates will be provided on the Coordinating Committee, the Implementation Support Unit and the Sponsorship Programme.

* Note that the agenda does not include an opportunity for statements of a general nature.