

**An overview of the history,
objectives and process of the
Intersessional Work Programme
of the Ottawa Convention**

Cecilia Sanchez

Objectives

- to ensure effective implementation of the Convention through a regular program of work
- to engage the broad international community in advancing the core humanitarian objectives
- to facilitate in depth consideration of mine action issues by all relevant actors
- to organize the work in way which promotes continuity, openness, transparency, inclusiveness and a cooperative spirit.

Standing Committees of Experts

Mine Clearance	Mozambique U.K.	Peru Netherlands
Victim Assistance	Mexico Switzerland	Japan Nicaragua
Stockpile Destruction	Hungary Mali	Malaysia Slovakia
Mine Action Technologies	France Cambodia	Yemen Germany
General Status	Canada South Africa	Zimbabwe Belgium

First Year

- bring together different actors
- better understanding of technical aspects of the Convention
- raise awareness about challenges
- reach common understandings on diverse issues
- dissemination of information on broader mine action initiatives

Second Meeting of States Parties

- Standing Committees would meet twice for 1 week between annual Meetings of States Parties
- Instead of 5, 4 Standing Committees:
 - Mine clearance and related technologies (Co-chairs/Co-rapporteurs: Netherlands and Peru/Germany and Yemen)
 - Victim assistance, socio-economic reintegration and mine awareness (Co-chairs/Co-rapporteurs: Japan and Nicaragua/Honduras and Canada)
 - Stockpile destruction (Co-Chairs/Co-rapporteurs: Slovakia and Malaysia/Australia and Croatia)
 - General Status and operation of the Convention (Co-chairs/Co-Rapporteurs: Belgium and Zimbabwe/ Norway and Thailand)

Second Cycle of Intersessional Work Programme

Improvements:

- Greater participation
- Experts learned about other aspects of mine action
- Improved general understanding

Continued:

- To enhance common understanding on diverse issues
- To identify best practices and useful tools
- Provide a « marketplace » for actors to exchange ideas and experiences

Second Meeting of States Parties

- Coordinating Committee of Co-chairs established to ensure a degree of coordination under the chairmanship of the President of the Meeting of States Parties
- *Standing Committees of Experts* changed to the *Standing Committees*
- Sponsorship programme also established

Reporting of the Intersessional Work Programme

Standing Committee Reports:

- Informal historical record of discussions
- Final Reports for the Meeting of States Parties (annexed to the Final Report of the MSP under responsibility of Co-chairs)

Coordinating Committee Summaries:

- Brief President's Summary of every meeting

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian
Demining Website: www.gichd.ch

Third Meeting of States Parties

Enhancements:

- General Status and Operations to provide an overview on general state of implementation and of universalization
- Agendas of Standing Committees focus on:
 - Status of implementation
 - Assessment of needs (plans/progress of States)
 - Matters of thematic nature
- Comprehensive package
- Briefings

Closing remarks

- Implementation Support Unit in the GICHD
- Intersessional Work Programme is an informal process!
- Great to hear from States Parties (mine affected)
- Opportunity to learn and to contribute!

THANK YOU
GRACIAS
MERCI