

**Standing Committee on  
Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies**

**Meeting Report 10-11 May 2006**

**I. Introduction**

Pursuant to the decisions of the 2004 First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the 2005 Sixth Meeting of the States Parties, the meeting of the Standing Committee was convened in Geneva by its Co-Chairs, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Al Hussein of Jordan (with the support of Mr. Azzam Alameddin of Jordan) and Mr. Igor Jukic of Slovenia, with the assistance of their Co-Rapporteurs, Mr. Camilo Sanhueza of Chile and Ms. Ingunn Vatne of Norway.

Based on relevant aspects of the *Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009* and the *2005 Zagreb Progress Report*, the Co-Chairs prepared a programme for the meeting that focused on the following matters: updates from the States Parties that had indicated that they were still in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations; updates from those in a position to provide assistance; and, enhancing understanding of what it means to implement Article 5 of the Convention. With respect to the first two matters, the Co-Chairs had in advance of the meeting distributed questionnaires to assist States Parties in structuring their presentations. With respect to the third matter, the Co-Chairs together with the Co-Rapporteurs had set the scene for discussion by having distributed a paper entitled *Towards Completion: Implementing Article 5*. The Standing Committee also received presentations on mine action technologies and mine risk education.

**II. Overview of the Status of Implementation**

The Co-Chairs provided a general overview of the status of implementation of Article 5. According to information by the States Parties, the obligations of Article 5 are or have been relevant for 51 States Parties, of which six have indicated that they have fulfilled their obligations. Of the 46 that have indicated that they are still in the process of fulfilling their obligations, 23 have a deadline to do so that occurs on 1 January 2010 or sooner. The Co-Chairs referred to the Nairobi Action Plan's emphasis that successfully meeting the deadlines for clearing mined areas according to Article 5 of the Convention will be the most significant challenge to be addressed in the coming five years and will require intensive efforts by mine-affected States Parties and those in a position to assist them. The Co-Chairs noted the need to act with urgency regarding this matter.

The Co-Chairs emphasised that their aim is to ensure that there is enough clarity in knowing that States Parties either are on track to meeting expectations or have made sufficient efforts to achieve progress in accordance with a national demining programme including acquiring resources and developing capacity. Regarding obligations of States Parties in a position to assist other States Parties in fulfilling their Article 5, the Co-Chairs reminded all States Parties that advice and assistance should be consistent with, not contradict or fall short of the obligations that States Parties have accepted under the Convention. In addition, it was noted that the States Parties repeatedly have stated that assistance and cooperation should be extended primarily to those that have forsworn the use of anti-personnel mines forever through adherence to, implementation of, and compliance with the Convention.

### **III. Update on the Implementation of Article 5**

The Co-Chairs noted that to maximize the opportunity presented by the Standing Committee to “monitor and actively promote the achievement of mine clearance goals and the identification of assistance needs”<sup>1</sup> they developed a questionnaire for the 45 States Parties which are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations to structure presentations to the Standing Committee. Of these 45 States Parties, 35 provided updates to the Standing Committee on their efforts to implement Article 5. A summary of the input provided by these States Parties that corresponds with the questionnaire distributed by the Co-Chairs is contained in Annex I to this report. Subsequent to the updates provided by the States Parties, responses and views were shared by Canada, Norway, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

### **IV. Lessons from the States Parties that have indicated that they have completed implementation of Article 5**

At the request of the Co-Chairs, the Manager of the Implementation Support Unit, Mr. Kerry Brinkert, gave an overview of information compiled from transparency information provided by the six States Parties that have indicated that they have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. Key observations included the following:

- Seriousness was demonstrated with respect to the obligation to destroy or ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines “as soon as possible” by many States Parties establishing a demining programme and implementing a national plan soon after, or even before, entry into force.
- Some had provided information on the destruction of a range of mines and explosive remnants of war, not only those covered by the Convention. While additional information may be useful, the provision of it suggests ambiguity regarding what it means to have fulfilled Article 5 obligations. In addition, it suggests that States Parties may be in a position to report completion of Article 5 obligations but nevertheless need to continue a national demining programme to fulfil legal obligations contained in other instruments concerning other explosive remnants of war or otherwise fulfil responsibilities.
- One State Party used ambiguous terminology to describe completion, using terms not contained in the Convention, such as “sans mines” or without mines or mine free.
- Two States Parties referred to a certification process and that demining had been undertaken in accordance with highest existing standards. These same two States Parties provided information on both domestic and external financial and technical means.

As the State Party that had most recently indicated that it had fulfilled its Article 5 obligations, Guatemala shared its experiences. Guatemala noted that efforts began in the mid-1990s when demining became a feature of agreements related to the end of internal conflict in Guatemala and that the first act of the Guatemalan Congress concerning mine action was passed in 1995. Guatemala reported that while only one mined area containing anti-personnel mines was located and all anti-personnel mines within it were destroyed prior to entry into force, its mine action effort lasted eight years, terminating in 2005 with 4,562 mines and

unexploded ordnance (UXO) being destroyed during this period. Key features of Guatemala's national mine action programme which might provide lessons for others were:

- The prompt manner in which Guatemala acted to establish and conduct work under a national demining programme.
- The high degree to which Guatemala's demining programme was organized, managed and implemented by Guatemala itself, including through the use of civilians, members of the armed forces and former non-State combatants in the demining effort.
- The high degree to which Guatemala's General State Budget funded the demining effort, supplemented by additional funding from some donors and private foundations and with the Organization of American States playing a leading role in administration of funding and in other ways.
- The manner in which an international certification process was used.
- The breadth of a the mine risk education effort, which included materials made available in 23 languages.
- The maintenance of a demining capacity after the completion of Article 5 obligations to take future action if necessary.

A more detailed overview of the update provided by Guatemala can be found in Annex II to this report.

## **V. Enhancing understanding of the completion of Article 5**

The Co-Chairs introduced the paper entitled *Towards Completion: Implementing Article 5*, which they had prepared with the Co-Rapporteurs. The purpose of the paper was to focus discussion on various aspects of the implementation of Article 5, suggesting that a temporal and efficient approach is required with actions prioritised and sequenced within the framework of the coming three Meetings of the States Parties (MSPs) and subsequent Intersessional meetings. The Co-Chairs noted that while the focus for the upcoming MSPs should be on compliance, there is also need to agree on a review process for possible requests for extension of Article 5 deadlines. The paper proposed two measures to facilitate this:

- That States Parties make use of assistance and support that can be provided by the Implementation Support Unit, in accordance with its mandate, in the development of extension requests in advance of requests being submitted to a MSP.
- That the States Parties elect a group of three to five experts comprising necessary technical, legal and diplomatic expertise to review such requests before formal submission to a MSP. This group of experts would be mandated with ensuring that possible extension requests are consistent with Article 5.4 and meet the high expectations of the States Parties, and, making recommendations to the MSP on how to respond to the individual extension requests.

The ideas contained in the discussion paper met with general broad support from a number of States Parties in addition to organisations such as the ICBL and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Some suggested an even speedier process than outlined in the discussion paper. Others warned against rushing the process, and losing focus on compliance. However, most agreed that this issue is timely and that there is a need to continue work on it.

Several States Parties emphasised that extension requests should only be given in exceptional cases as a last resort and not be seen as automatic. While it was noted that primary responsibility lies with each individual State Party, it was highlighted that some will need external resources to fulfill their obligations. Several States Parties underlined that even though the idea of a group of experts seemed to be worth considering, many questions remained including the selection process, representation, and linkages with existing structures. Some emphasised that decisions remain the purview of the States Parties with the role of a group of experts being to recommend or advise. It was suggested that the President could identify experts for consideration by the States Parties and that any expert must enjoy respect and confidence of all States Parties. It was also suggested that continuity be emphasised with experts elected for a three-year period.

Regarding the process leading up to an extension request and the criteria for granting such an extension, it was suggested that criteria be the specific nature of mined areas, the progress of each country, and available resources. Another State Party reminded the Standing Committee that Article 5.4 lists the substantive elements for an extension request. Some suggested that extension requests should be made in advance of deadlines to allow adequate time for analysis, for additional information to be sought and for the requesting party to make amendments. Inclusiveness in the preparation of requests was also suggested.

The Co-Chairs concluded that they will work closely with their Co-Rapporteurs and the President-Designate, including explicitly addressing matters regarding a group of experts which had been raised during discussion. The Co-Chairs invited written comments and stressed, as many Standing Committee participants did, the need to make the fullest use of the period between the Standing Committee meeting and the 7MSP.

## **VI. Update on Assistance and Cooperation**

The Co-Chairs recalled that the *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that “States Parties in a position to do so will act upon their obligations under Article 6 (3) and 6 (4) to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for mine clearance and mine risk education, responding to the priorities for assistance as articulated by the mine-affected States Parties themselves and ensuring the continuity and sustainability of resource commitments.”<sup>ii</sup> In addition, they recalled that the First Review Conference noted the challenge of ensuring a renewed commitment “through means such as dedicated funds to assist in the implementation of the Convention and by mainstreaming support to mine action through broader humanitarian, development, peace-building and peace support programmes.” As well, they reminded the Standing Committee that this point was further emphasized in the *Zagreb Progress Report* in which it was noted that “States Parties in a position to do so should act with greater urgency to fulfill their obligations under Article 6 of the Convention, taking into account the importance of providing necessary support until implementation of Article 5 obligations has been completed.”

To assist States Parties in engaging in a discussion on assistance and cooperation as it concerns Article 5 implementation, the Co-Chairs had distributed a questionnaire that asked relevant actors what they had done since the First Review Conference to assist others, what means they have used and what their intentions are in the lead-up to the Second Review Conference. Eleven States Parties, the European Commission (EC) and the GICHD participated in this discussion:

- Germany, Japan, Italy and the European Commission all declared that their respective level of assistance would be maintained.
- Germany's policy is that all countries receiving assistance for mine clearance should be States Parties to the Convention with exceptions made only in situations of humanitarian crisis.
- Canada stated that it will maintain a significant level of funding until the goal is reached and it underlined the importance of integration mine action with humanitarian and development efforts.
- France said that its efforts have more than doubled since 2004 in spite of the financial difficulties France is going through.
- Switzerland reported that it has a three-year plan for 2004-2007, that when selecting countries for support for mine action activities synergies with the peace and humanitarian policy of Switzerland is considered, and that a new strategy is being developed which will see mine action included in peace-building projects.
- Japan stated that it is working on the basis of the principles of consolidation of peace, human security, and cooperation among governments, NGOs, the private sector and academia. Japan puts great emphasis on developing new mine action technology.
- Ireland outlined its cooperation with Halo Trust, which for more than a decade has been one of their key partners in relation to de-mining activities. In 2003 Ireland commenced a more strategic long term support initiative for that organisation through the allocation of annual block grants, thus giving Halo Trust more flexibility.
- The Netherlands emphasising amongst other things local capacity building and training.
- Sweden as well emphasised the importance of national ownership and of local capacity building, and underlined that mine action is an integrated part of humanitarian and of long-term development assistance programmes in post-conflict and underdeveloped regions. It stated that mine action must be demand-driven and managed by national governments through their poverty reduction strategies and national development plans, responding to the needs of local communities.
- Estonia explained how an Estonian Explosive Ordnance Disposal team participates in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, and how it has contributed to the operation Enduring Freedom with an Explosives Detection Dog team.
- Benin made a presentation of a regional mine clearance training centre for ECOWAS member states (CPADD) that was set up in 2002 with assistance from France. The centre's mission is to provide training, advice and experience. Practical training is provided according to international standards. According to Benin, CPADD could eventually open up to English-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries, and they are currently searching for new partners.
- Several States Parties underlined the importance of seeking increased cost-efficiency and effectiveness.

- The GICHD contributed to the discussion by pointing out that usually only a small percentage of suspected areas identified by impact surveys are actually mined, that therefore area reduction and technical survey processes are needed, and that what is needed is a focus on releasing suspected areas not simply on mine clearance.

## **VII. Matters of a thematic nature concerning the implementation of Article 5**

### **A. Mine risk education**

At the request of the Co-Chairs, Mr. Stan Brabant of Handicap International, on behalf of the ICBL and UNICEF, provided an update of efforts concerning mine risk education. Mr. Brabant reminded all States Parties that all clearance operations should have a community liaison component. Landmine Monitor has found a growing number of mine clearance operations with such a component, but more is needed. Guidelines and standards for this have been developed, and Mr. Brabant encouraged organisations to make reference to these. More efforts are needed to make sure that mine risk education programmes correspond to the specific needs of communities. Landmine Monitor will provide a more complete overview in September this year.

### **B. Mine action technologies**

At the request of the Co-Chairs, Professor Marc Acheroy of Belgium, on behalf of an informal mine action technologies experts group, provided an update on efforts in concerning mine action technologies. Professor Acheroy gave an overview of new technologies that are ready to be fielded, and underlined that end-users and donors needed to be informed. He suggested that the GICHD could play the role of a consumers' interests' organisation in this regard. There are new technological developments both within detection, demining and neutralisation. According to Professor Acheroy, new developments can increase efficiency dramatically, but he emphasised the importance of publications.

## **VIII. Conclusions**

The Co-Chairs concluded the meeting with the following observations:

- Thirty-five (35) State Parties to the Convention that are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations made presentations. The number was impressive, but what was ever more impressive was the quality of the presentations, with more clarity than in the previous years being provided. However, as noted by some meeting participants, more clarity in some cases is required.
- There was an extremely constructive discussion from wide range of actors on ways forward on process matters concerning extension requests for Article 5 implementation. However, more input from States Parties which are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations would be desirable. The topic will be one of the highlights of the Convention in the coming years and the Co-Chairs, Co-Rapporteurs and 7MSP President-Designate will continue to consult widely on the subject in the following months in order to for the 7MSP to consider various conclusions.

- A high level of commitment from the donor community was expressed, along with an appeal that such support continue.
- Through updates provided on mine risk education and mine action technologies, it was possible to see that important progress continues to be made in these areas.
- The presentations made by a number of actors indicated that the mine clearance challenge faced in many cases is not as great as first thought and that success is possible.

**Annex I: Information provided by States Parties in the context of questions posed by the Co-Chairs**

State Party	Plan <sup>iii</sup>	Progress <sup>iv</sup>	Remaining work <sup>v</sup>	Impeding circumstances <sup>vi</sup>	Means dedicated <sup>vii</sup>	National ownership / local capacity <sup>viii</sup>	Priorities for assistance <sup>ix</sup>
Afghanistan		<p>Afghanistan completed the first nationwide landmine impact survey last year. Its results will help the MAPA to better prioritize land that needs to be cleared. The MAPA will now be able to measure its success not only in terms of square metres cleared or devices destroyed but also by the direct impact and benefit to communities. The MAPA has decreased the number of high and medium impacted communities found in the initial survey through a combination of clearance, markings and mine risk education. During the last 16 months the MAPA was able to lower the impact of mines and UXO in 211 communities and the mines and UXO problems of 57 communities has been completely addressed. Last year, the MAPA reached an important milestone by clearing its one billionth square metre of land, the number of victims in Afghanistan has dropped to 70-100 per month.</p>			<p>The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan started in 1990 and has since expanded to include more than a dozen partner organisations which employ more than 10,000 Afghans.</p>		

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Albania	In accordance with Action #19 of the Nairobi Action Plan, Albania developed a Plan for completion which will enable Albania to meet its clearance deadline and clear all high and medium impact by the end of 2006 and clear all other known areas by 2009. These objectives are achievable assuming that needed funding will be provided.	To date more than 12 million square metres, or more than three quarters of the total affected area, have been released through clearance and surveys.	Another 3.2 million square metres remain to be cleared to ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas.		Albania has provided national resources through the Ministry of Defence by providing free of charge explosive materials and medical evacuations service by helicopter.	One of the main objectives of the Albanian Programme is also building local capacities for demining and victim's assistance and good progress has been made in this regard so far, as reported in a previous session.	
Algeria	Algeria is currently elaborating with the UNDP a mine action project which will enable the country, through a comprehensive impact survey, to draft a national strategic plan which would include demining. So far, Algeria had conducted demining operations according to the following principles: to continue with operations started in 1963, to clear some strategic areas which had been mined by the Algerian army in the fight against terrorism and to destroy anti-personnel mines wherever their existence was confirmed.	In the period between the last Standing Committee meetings and 31 March 2006, the army discovered and destroyed 113,880 anti-personnel mines in addition to the destruction of 10,996 mines laid by the Algerian army during the last decade.	So far Algeria found and destroyed 190,858 anti-personnel mines, of the estimated 3,064,180 laid in its Eastern and Western borders.	The following parameters may affect Algeria's effort to eradicate anti-personnel mines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortage of protection and detection equipment.</li> <li>• Displacement of mines due to erosion and wind.</li> <li>• High temperatures which make work difficult.</li> <li>• Difficult terrain in some areas.</li> <li>• Lack of funding.</li> </ul> But, Algeria believes that the most significant challenge it has to address is how to carry out in a good manner its clearance operations in order to fulfil its Article 5 obligations in a timely manner.	Mine clearance operations are funded by the Algerian Government and carried out by the National Army.	See previous column.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small technical equipment (mine sweepers, earth moving equipments and detectors especially for home made mines which contain very little or no metal at all).</li> <li>• Protective equipment (suits, hand protectors, visors and boots).</li> </ul>
Angola		In 2005, Angola elaborated a National Strategic Plan for Mine Action (2006-2011). About 14,262,596 square metres of mined areas and 668 kilometres of roads were cleared.	Angola indicated that, in 2006, it intended to consolidate the extension of CNIDAH at the provincial level, to implement IMSMA, to reinforce the adoption of all mine action standards, to complete the Landmine Impact Survey, and to				

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			support the development and operational capacity of INAD and its Central Mine Action Training School.				
Argentina	The United Kingdom's and Argentinean Governments will carry out a feasibility study by means of a Joint Argentine-British Working Party to assess the costs and risks of options considered technically feasible and it will include a cost-benefit analysis of the clearance activities, establishing an order of preference among the options.	<p>At the Fifth Meeting of the Joint Working Party, and following the recommended measures of the Nairobi Plan of Action, Argentina and the UK agreed to use the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) as the base to achieve the International Standards for Mine Action (IMAS) requirements, in accordance with the Exchange of Notes of 2001.</p> <p>At the Sixth Meeting both delegations continued to make progress on financial, legal and technical aspects of the Feasibility Study and to move forward on several tasks ahead of the Seventh Meeting. They also agreed to recommend to the two Governments that they should extend the scope of the Exchange of Notes of 2001 under the sovereignty formula, through the conclusion of an agreement to include Unexploded Ordnance that might remain inside the mine fields.</p> <p>At the Seventh Meeting and last meeting to date of the Joint Working Party, held in Buenos Aires in March 2006, both</p>					

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		delegations continued to negotiate a way forward on the legal and technical aspects of the Feasibility Study aiming to complete a joint survey visit to the Falkland Islands during the austral summer of 2006/2007. Both delegations agreed to work intersessionally on the contractual aspects of the study and a draft statement of requirements.					
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<p>In 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to do 52% more demining than in 2005, covering an area of 16.7 million square metres, with 8.8 million square metres of technical survey and 5 million square metres of clearance. 35 square kilometres of suspected areas are planned to be permanently marked.</p> <p>Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the process of mainstreaming mine action into development programme in order to access additional financial resources.</p>	<p>2005 was one of the most successful mine action years in Bosnia and Herzegovina and also was the first year of implementation of the new National Mine Action Strategy, a document founded on a better comprehension of the constant gap between the real size of the mine threat and financial and other means to deal with that threat and a better task assessment and planning system.</p> <p>The following achievements can be recorded for 2005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mine affected territory was reduced of a further 158.1 square kilometres.</li> <li>• 25 integrated mine action projects for endangered communities with high level mine threat were implemented and resulted in a decrease of the mine threat for these communities.</li> <li>• Emphasis was placed on</li> </ul>		The size of the mine affected area and still too much reliance on international donor funds.	In 2005, around 8.8 million euros came out of the mine action budgets of different government levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The country's annual financial investment for mine action grows every year although the biggest part (63%) is still supported by the international donor community.		

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		<p>community liaison which became the real connection between communities and their needs on one side and, priority-setting system for mine action activities on the other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The marking programme continued although not to the projected level.</li> </ul>					
Chad	Chad developed a national strategic plan which indicates that all mine-affected regions would be demined by 2009 with the exception of the Tibesti region for which a 6-year extension would be required.	In 2005/2006, partial clearance of the Wadi Doum airfield and the Fada town and region were carried out. In total, 4 400 000 square metres were released and 985 anti-personnel mines destroyed.	Less than 10 square kilometres, of 1081 affected square kilometres, have been cleared. In addition, new minefields have been discovered in the Borkou region.	Insufficient financial resources dedicated to the execution of Chad's national plan and an unstable politico-military situation which prevents access to certain mine-affected areas.	The Government of Chad allocates approximately 1 million \$US each year to the National High Commission for Demining, it also integrated the national plan in the Chad's Poverty Reduction Strategy and finances this strategy with oil revenues.		Funding is required in priority for: the clearance of N'Djamena and to restart the clearance operations which were suspended in December 2005 around Wadi Doum and Fada.
Chile	Chile has a National Mine Action Plan since 2002 which covers all the necessary activities to remove and destroy mines laid in Chile. In addition to this national plan, national directives are issued each year to give concrete directions to actions that need to be carried out within the corresponding year. According to its National Mine Action Plan, Chile envisages the full implementation of the obligations contained in Article 5 within the 10-year deadline that has been given by the Convention.	<p>All minefields in Chile have been identified and perimeter-marked. Since May 2005, Chile carried out the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearance of 5 minefields in Region I, Chacalluta sector, has been completed.</li> <li>• Work in the Tambo Quemado sector started in July 2005, and is 50% advanced, 1,269 anti-personnel mines have been destroyed.</li> <li>• In November 2005, post-clearance inspection took place in Tejas Verde, in minefields that had been cleared in 2004-2005.</li> <li>• In February 2006, a demining operation started in Region II, in Lullaillaco National Park aiming to clear 6 minefields. Work is 66% advanced with 1,440 anti-personnel mines</li> </ul>	<p>As of 30 April 2006, there remained 169 minefields in Chile covering 2,139 hectares and containing 115,668 anti-personnel mines. During the second semester of 2006, work should commence in other areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 3 minefields of Region XII, Tierra del Fuego, containing 3,642 mines;</li> <li>In 2 minefields in Chacalluta, Region I.</li> </ul> <p>Chile's initial goal to start work in all its mined areas is about to be achieved. From this point on, Chile will move to a second phase during which work will be maintained and increased in each of these areas.</p>	<p>The following circumstances might impede Chile's progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographical characteristics of the country which affects planning and development of demining operations.</li> <li>• Characteristics of the terrain, especially altitude, climate, and areas with difficult access.</li> <li>• Almost all minefields in Chile contain both anti-personnel mines and anti-tank mines which limits the use of mechanical means to remove mines and means that mines have to be lifted mainly manually.</li> <li>• As a result of the above-described circumstances, it is difficult to use and access a more advanced technology that would enable better progress in</li> </ul>	From 2004 to date, Chile has contributed financially to 56% of its demining programme, the rest being provided by international contributions. In addition, the Chilean armed forces covered the costs related to specialised and non-specialised personnel involved in demining operations.		Continued international financial support is essential to maintain and increase the current level of activities. International cooperation, equipment, technology transfer as well financing of the demining operations will be crucial to increase the work rate.

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Colombia	Colombia commits to demine 34 military bases in the next five years. Demining teams and emergency teams composed of army, navy and police staff will be formed to carry out demining work. The OAS will train 40 men as deminers and Colombia is in the process of developing a work plan with the support of Canada and the OAS.	having been destroyed.		demining.			
Congo		Two reconnaissance missions were sent to Congo's south-western border with Angola in order to gather reliable data to set up a demining programme. However, the existence of anti-personnel mines in this border area still needs to be confirmed.	See previous column.	Geographical: the area suspected to be mined in the border with Angola is not safe enough to conduct demining operations and Congo would like this area to be demined jointly with Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Technical: Congo is for the first time involved in a humanitarian demining programme and the Congolese armed forces do neither have the technology nor the expertise for this kind of demining.			Support for the development of a demining programme.
Croatia	In 2005 the National Mine Action Program was revised to reflect a new awareness that adequate financing was the new main precondition/stumbling block to fulfilling the obligation of the Ottawa Convention – i.e. to demine Croatia by the 2009 Convention deadline.		As of January 2006, 1147 square kilometres was still considered as mine suspected area. CROMAC estimates that some 28 percent, or 320 square kilometres, deserves priority, the remaining area being of low economic value and not important in either reconstruction or development.	Domestic and international political will and economic support.	Approximately 75 percent of funds for demining in Croatia have come from the state, 50 percent from Croatia's state budget and 25 percent from public and state owned companies.		

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Cyprus	According to the National Plan, the destruction of anti-personnel mines laid in minefields is to be completed by July 2013. Work has so far proceeded as planned and it is expected that the National Plan will be successfully completed within the specified time frame.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since June 2005, and in line with the time schedule of the National Plan, the Republic of Cyprus has proceeded to the destruction of 237 laid anti-personnel mines, which were removed from 2 minefields of the National Guard.</li> <li>• The work which commenced in November 2004 in the Buffer Zone was completed in July 2005, with a total of 8 minefields cleared, 3 suspected areas checked and 961 anti-personnel mines destroyed. All land areas were returned to their owners for agricultural development.</li> </ul>	According to the time schedule, the destruction of 280 mines laid in 2 minefields is foreseen for 2006. In total, 3,801 mines laid in 14 minefields under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus remain to be destroyed by 1 July 2013.		Work to implement the Convention is funded by the Republic of Cyprus and is carried out by a specially trained military team.		
Democratic Republic of the Congo	The work of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop a plan has been delayed because such a document can only be established when the extent of the anti-personnel mine contamination is known.	The data compiled on mined areas has been put in IMSMA. Some general surveys have been conducted by international NGOs which identified some dangerous areas in areas formerly suspected to be mined. Demining of the areas identified in Tanganyika district started in 2005. To date, approximately 2,675,810 square metres and 260 km of road have been cleared.	The Democratic Republic of Congo believes that the most appropriate course of action for its problem is the conduct of technical surveys followed by immediate demining activities. An increase of the number of international NGOs operating in the DRC and the development of national capacity would also be helping.	Mines are scattered over a huge territory and very few records of mined areas are available.	A national structure for mine action is about to be established and will be placed under the direct authority of the President of the DRC. It will be composed of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an interministerial organ which will be in charge of adopting the national plan and defining priorities.</li> <li>• a technical organ which will implement the national plan, accredit demining operators and oversee their work.</li> </ul>		Support in the establishment of a national structure for mine action, and of a demining team composed of members of the DRC armed forces and finally an increased financial commitment from the international community for the international and national NGOs working in the DRC.
Ethiopia		Since the Ethiopian Mine Action Office was established in 2005, 2,226 hectares of mine contaminated land have been cleared. Mine risk					

State Party	Plan <sup>iii</sup>	Progress <sup>iv</sup>	Remaining work <sup>v</sup>	Impeding circumstances <sup>vi</sup>	Means dedicated <sup>vii</sup>	National ownership / local capacity <sup>viii</sup>	Priorities for assistance <sup>ix</sup>
		education has been going on since January 2003 mainly in the north of the country, in the Tigrai and Afar region.					
Greece	According to the pace of progress so far, Greece indicated that it will complete its demining obligations by 2014 and there is a high probability that it will complete earlier.	Greece has completed demining in 47% of mined areas.					
Guinea Bissau		In 2005, Guinea Bissau cleared 119,464.47 square metres and destroyed 26 anti-personnel mines. Guinea Bissau indicated that it is about to declare the capital, Bissau, free of landmines but ERW contamination in Bissau and surroundings remains a threat to the population.	The Landmine Impact Survey launched in 2004 is still ongoing and should be completed in December 2006.				
Jordan	By the spring of 2008, Jordan hopes to demine all the Israeli minefields on its territory found along its western border with Israel. This will total 12 million square metres, i.e. 30 percent of the total remaining landmine threat. By 2009 Jordan plans to have demined the remaining Jordanian minefields in the Jordan Valley. This will total 8 million square metres / 27 percent of the total remaining landmine threat. Finally, the northern border mine-belt with Syria that has an area approximately 15 million square metres / 43 percent	Since the 7MSP, the following efforts have been undertaken: • The Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) project to demine the Israeli minefields in the Wadi Araba region that runs from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea in Aqaba is set to begin. This task is expected to take 2 years. NPA is in the process of establishing and training its teams and will start actual work in June. Initial funding has come from Norway. • The EC has funded a project to clear a high impact area in the northern part of the Jordan Valley	In order for Jordan to be in compliance with its obligations, it has to clear approximately 35 million square metres of suspected hazardous area and destroy roughly 200,000 mines by May 2009. Jordan's Royal Engineering Corps has been the sole clearance capacity in Jordan since 1993, now joined by a capacity from NPA. However for Jordan to meet its obligations, it will need even greater mine clearance capacity.	Jordan hopes that it will not face any impediments that may hinder our efforts, such as funding gaps, difficulties in keeping the issue a priority when only a few mines remain, and regional political upheaval. Aside from these external risks, Jordan has identified three major issues that it considers paramount: First, Jordan needs to enhance demining capacity in order to increase annual clearance rates. If operations in the area along the Syrian border could begin in 2006/07, 2009 completion would be even more secure. Second, the armed forces	The Government of Jordan is highly committed to its mine action program and does its utmost to support it, contributing US\$ 3.5 million annually to the Jordan Demining program and covering the running costs of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR). The Jordanian Armed Forces second to the NCDR a number of staff members and its Royal Engineering Corps has appointed one of its senior staff as liaison officer to the NCDR to ensure full cooperation and coordination between the two bodies	Mine action in Jordan is managed by the NCDR which works very closely with all national & international stakeholders and partners. The NCDR has garnered the political will necessary within Jordan to give mine action the attention it duly deserves. There is a renewed sense of ownership and commitment to deal with the problem within the government and military which bodes well for the future. The NCDR has greatly enhanced its own capacity as an effective organization and last year launched Jordan's first	Major funding priorities are: • Mobilizing support for the clearance of the Syrian border mine-belt. These minefields do not pose a great technical challenge as they are marked and fenced. What they do pose is an operational challenge that could be overcome if more resources could be attracted or if a new operator began working in Jordan. • Continued support for the Royal Engineers for training and equipment • Modest support for the NCDR in the form of training and institutional

State Party	Plan <sup>iii</sup>	Progress <sup>iv</sup>	Remaining work <sup>v</sup>	Impeding circumstances <sup>vi</sup>	Means dedicated <sup>vii</sup>	National ownership / local capacity <sup>viii</sup>	Priorities for assistance <sup>ix</sup>
	of the total remaining landmine threat will also be demined by the spring of 2009.	called 'Baqura / North Shunah.' The minefields in this area are a mixture of both Jordanian and Israeli minefields that comprise an area of approximately 1.5 million square metres. The Jordanian Armed Forces will undertake the clearance and it is soon to commence. The result will be the availability of highly arable land for development in one of the most densely populated and poverty stricken regions of the country. • To help better coordinate, plan, and prioritize the upcoming three years of activity Jordan will undertake a significantly re-modeled Landmine Impact Survey. Since a great percentage of the information needed is readily available, it has been determined that a Landmine Retrofit Survey tailored to needs is all that is required. Funding from Norway and Canada has been secured.		could benefit from further technical assistance and training so that the systems and techniques used by the Royal Engineering Corps become even more efficient and productive. Third, Jordan needs to attract, train, and retain technical and managerial staff. Focused capacity development support is still needed as the government's ability to contribute more to mine action is stretched to the limit.		'National Plan for Mine Action' which it is in the process of implementing. The NCDR has since the 6MSP to have secured some major funding for the demining projects. One of the remaining challenges, however, is to maintain the momentum so that the NCDR remains capable and poised to lead and manage the national mine action programme. In this context continued support for capacity building is an important area that must not be overlooked.	capacity development.
Macedonia, FYR of	Macedonia aims to be free of anti-personnel mines by September 2006.		Five possible contaminated areas in Kumanovo-Skopje-Tetovo that the Protection and Rescue Directorate intends to clear within 120 days.				
Mauritania	According to the 2005-2009 plan which was submitted in Nairobi, Mauritania plans to demine high and medium impact areas and to identify and mark all known mined	In 2005-2006, 10,000 square metres were cleared and 85 anti-personnel were found and destroyed. Mine risk education was one of the main activities during 2005-2006. 2,500,000					

State Party	Plan <sup>iii</sup>	Progress <sup>iv</sup>	Remaining work <sup>v</sup>	Impeding circumstances <sup>vi</sup>	Means dedicated <sup>vii</sup>	National ownership / local capacity <sup>viii</sup>	Priorities for assistance <sup>ix</sup>
	areas pending their clearance. Mauritania's action plan will be revised after the completion of the Landmine Impact Survey.	square metres in mined areas were marked, 160 people received MRE training, and several awareness campaigns were launched.					
Mozambique	The Government of Mozambique is undertaking efforts with a view of complying with its 2009 deadline for mine clearance.	Demining activities in 29 villages resulted in the clearance of 98 areas suspected to be mined, representing more than 23 million square metres. In conducting area reduction, Mozambique returned 72 million square metres to the communities.	There are still 353 remaining suspected mined areas to be confirmed and in addition 215 new areas have been reported by operators and local authorities.	The knowledge of the real situation of mines represents an important challenge to the programme and is directly linked to the 2009 deadline.			Continuous funding for the Mozambique Mine Action Programme.
Nicaragua	For 2006, Nicaragua plans to destroy 15,391 mines – 2,052 of which should have been destroyed in 2005 – with 56 objectives to demine.	In 2005, 12,540 mines were destroyed along 36 kilometres of border representing an area of 353,562 square metres. 14,945 UXO were also found and destroyed. Nicaragua has demined 883 minefields out of 991 registered.	There remains 14,052 mines to be destroyed in 2006 and another 13,266 in 2007.	Lack of equipment especially detectors, accessibility of the mined areas and weather conditions are all factors slowing down demining operations.			
Peru		An Impact Survey has been conducted in all five mine-affected areas in the Santiago river area in Northern Peru. 364 electricity pylons were cleared in 2005. A one-year project was signed with the European Commission in December 2005 to survey and clear the Condor mountain range.	Peru plans to complete the joint demining operations with Ecuador in the Chira river area in 2006. By the end of 2007, it should complete the clearance and quality assurance of all electricity pylons. The EC funded clearance and survey operations in one sector of the Condor mountain will continue. In 2007, clearance of areas around high-security prisons and police stations will be initiated.	Peru identified 3 challenges which are slowing down demining work: First, logistical challenges resulting from a difficult topography and the remoteness of some affected areas. Second, mines were displaced as a result of natural phenomena such as torrential rains, earthquakes and landslides. Third: Peru needs additional financial resources.	CONTRAMINAS has been set up within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure operational coordination of mine action in Peru. Demining work is undertaken by the army and the National Police.  CONTRAMINAS is funded with national resources and clearance of the electricity pylons is funded by the State power company.		Additional financial resources will be required for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of clearance in the Condor mountain range.</li> <li>• Clearance of areas around high-security prisons and police stations.</li> </ul>
Rwanda	Rwanda believes that its 2009 clearance deadline is still achievable provided it	To date, more than 1,000,000 square metres have been cleared and	16 minefields remain uncleared These are estimated to be about	Although Rwanda still intends to complete its obligations within its			Priorities for assistance are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation clearing assets</li> </ul>

State Party	Plan <sup>iii</sup>	Progress <sup>iv</sup>	Remaining work <sup>v</sup>	Impeding circumstances <sup>vi</sup>	Means dedicated <sup>vii</sup>	National ownership / local capacity <sup>viii</sup>	Priorities for assistance <sup>ix</sup>
	gets the necessary support. A more realistic timing for the clearance of all remaining minefields will be possible once the technical survey is completed.	resettled. 34 small and medium minefields have been cleared and returned to communities for social and economic activities. More than 1000 acres of tea plantation have been cleared and returned to production. 35,000 mines and UXO were destroyed countrywide. More than 100 Km of commercial roads were verified to allow their repairs. The demining force was increased to 234 people and trained to IMAS.	885,930 square metres. Remaining areas are good agricultural land, currently not in use due to the threat of landmines. There are plans to conduct a technical survey of all remaining minefields in Rwanda.	deadline, the lack of comprehensive data on the type and density of mines and minefields affects planning. Rwanda lacks funds to support demining operational costs. Some minefields are not accessible by vehicles, either because of steep hills or being in remote areas.			that will take into consideration the challenging terrain in Rwanda. • Funds for mounting expenses of demining operations. • MRE funding to re-sensitize the population to avoid careless behaviour which have resulted in accidents.
Sudan	Sudan's plans are centred on the following priorities: 1. Clearance of main roads, water sources and agricultural farms 2. Intensification of mine risk education activities, 3. Capacity building and training	In the last few months some routes have been opened that link Juba, Rumbek and Wau Town to the Ugandan and Kenyan borders.		Sudan lacks in capacity building, technical know how and more importantly in funding.			See "Impeding circumstances" column.
Swaziland	In August 2006, Swaziland will receive technical assistance from the GICHD which should enable the country to draw up a plan to use for area reduction, demining and quality assurance and resource mobilisation.	In February 2006, a Committee consisting of key Ministries was put in place to determine ways and means to implement the Ottawa Convention.  In May 2006 Swaziland held bilateral discussions with the ISU during which it was agreed that a technical mission would visit Swaziland in August 2006 to assist Swaziland in fulfilling its obligations as soon as possible before the 1 June 2009 deadline.	The exact location of the suspected mined area along the Swaziland-Mozambican border as well as the physical features of this area still have to be determined in order for Swaziland to draw up a mine clearance plan.	Several years have passed since members of the defence force received relevant demining training and their skills and knowledge have become outdated.			Swaziland requires assistance to draw up an action plan for its suspected mined area and will require financial help to implement this plan.
Tajikistan	Tajikistan Mine Action Programme is being implemented in accordance	In 2005 Tajikistan cleared 130,000 square metres. It also developed and	In two years of activity, teams have cleared 200,000 square metres out	Incomplete survey data and financial resources.	The level of economic development in Tajikistan does not permit the	The national Mine Action Programme is integrated with other projects and	Support is needed in priority for: 1. The Completion

State Party	Plan <sup>iii</sup>	Progress <sup>iv</sup>	Remaining work <sup>v</sup>	Impeding circumstances <sup>vi</sup>	Means dedicated <sup>vii</sup>	National ownership / local capacity <sup>viii</sup>	Priorities for assistance <sup>ix</sup>
	with the Five Year Strategy. Within the framework of this plan and based on results of clearance so far, Tajikistan intends to double the productivity and costs effectiveness in 2006/2007.	submitted 10 project proposals to donors for 2006, including for mine clearance.	of 25 million square metres suspected to be contaminated.		allocation of a lot of funds to the mine action programme but the Government's contribution to the programme is increasing each year. The Government of Tajikistan provides the use of training areas, building and facilities. The ministries of defence and emergency situations, and the National Border Defence Committee provide human resources to the programme.	managed by national authorities and enjoys wide ministerial support and cooperation. There are ongoing discussions with representatives of FSD about the procedures and phases of transfer of responsibilities and management of operations to the national authorities. The process leading to national management of mine clearance is envisaged to be completed by 2007-2008.	Initiative (12 million \$US) 2. Mechanical demining machines
Thailand	TMAC completed the 2nd Master Plan of the Thailand Humanitarian Mine Action 2005-2009. The Master Plan touches upon the problem regarding data of mine-contaminated areas contained in the Level I Impact Survey. It also proposes the area reduction technique as one of the strategies to stimulate mine clearance. Pending approval by the National Committee on Humanitarian Mine Action, TMAC has already pursued the implementation process along the lines of this Master Plan.	In 2005, a total of 5,874,667 square metres of land was cleared by the Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC), the General Chatichai Choonhavan Foundation (GCCF), and the Japan Alliance for Humanitarian Demining Support (JAHDS). Since the 6MSP, a total of 291,148 square metres of mine-contaminated areas have been cleared and returned to the community. Therefore, the total area that has been demined since Thailand became a party to the Convention in 1999 has reached 9.34 square kilometres.	Acquire more specific and precise data regarding mined areas through a Technical Survey.		Thailand believes that it is necessary to stimulate public awareness in order to promote a more cohesive and concrete partnership among government agencies, NGOs and the private sector. Thailand is also in the process of restructuring TMAC into a more dynamic and independent entity. Through this new structure, it is expected that TMAC's allocated budget as well as staff would be increased and, as a consequence, the mine action would be accelerated. On the international front, Thailand cooperates with relevant supporters such as the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, and the 14-member Human Security Network, to establish practical cooperation on landmines.		

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					Thailand and Cambodia have also agreed during the Joint Committee meeting in February 2006 to jointly conduct a feasibility study on mine clearance in prioritized mine-suspected areas along the border between the two countries.		
Tunisia		90 percent of the minefield located in the Ras Jedir region has been cleared.	Clearance of minefields laid in Saharan areas.	The sandy terrain in which mines are buried is making clearance more complicated and more dangerous. In addition, Tunisia noted that it had received low financial support from the international community.			
Turkey		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No clearance activities have taken place in Turkey since the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties. Because of harsh winter conditions, clearance cannot start until May.</li> <li>• An agreement between the Turkish Cypriot authorities and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force regarding mine clearance in the buffer zone was reached in August 2005 and work commenced. 5 out of 13 minefields in the area were cleared and 63 anti-personnel mines and UXO were detected and destroyed.</li> </ul>			The number of Turkish General Staff personnel involved in mine clearance activities has risen from 325 to 461 in 2005.		
Uganda	In 2006, Uganda plans to establish four additional multi-purposed technical survey/clearance/EOD teams and two additional quality assurance control teams. Demining	A National Mine Action Steering Committee has been established and commenced work. A mine action policy has also been drafted and approval by the Cabinet is pending. The	Conduct of targeted needs assessment in Pader, Kitgum and Gulu in Northern Uganda and parts of Kabarole district in Western Uganda. Establishment of additional	Insurgency and civil conflicts and funding were identified as the two main circumstances that may impede the ability of Uganda to fulfil its Article 5 obligations within 10	22 army engineers and paramedics, 39 police officers have been seconded to the Office of the Prime Minister / Mine Action Centre Uganda. 500,000,000 Uganda	Demining operations are and will be conducted by national staff only. National capacity is being developed and will be further developed with support of a variety of	Priorities for assistance are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical assistance for capacity development support in the form of a mine action advisor and demining and targeted</li> </ul>

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	operations are and will be conducted by seconded army engineers and police officers trained in humanitarian demining.	Mine Action Centre Uganda was officially opened on 4 April 2006.	teams for survey, clearance, EOD and quality assurance work to respond to identified needs.	years.	Shilling have been earmarked for mine action in the 2006-2007 national budget.	organisations.	needs assessment expertise. • Further training using the above mentioned means. • Resources to enhance demining in an efficient and timely manner.
United Kingdom	See information on Argentina.	See information on Argentina.					
Yemen	By 2009 Yemen will clear all hazard areas and all landmine areas by 2011. From April 2009 Yemen will commit its resources to deal with the remaining problem with minimum international support. At the end of March 2009, a total of 311 square kilometres will have been released	As of the end of 2005, all high, 59 medium and 73 low impacted communities were freed from landmines. 315 square kilometres, out of 922 square kilometres had been surveyed and cleared.	607 square kilometres of suspected land remain to be surveyed and cleared. The minefields in which work has been suspended have to be permanently marked.		The Government of Yemen provides over \$US 3.5 million to mine action annually and its mine action programme has been nationally executed since October 2003. Mine action personnel is seconded from the Ministry of Defence, no NGOs or commercial companies are involved in mine clearance.	See previous column.	Yemen will need continued international support both financial and technological.
Zambia	With the assistance of the United Nations, Zambia has developed a national strategic plan to meet its Convention obligations within the set deadline. This plan for completion which is being finalized undertake to show how in four years Zambia will reduce its landmine victims level to virtually zero, remove blockages to community and national economic development as well as create a residual mine action capacity to clear any newly discovered anti-personnel mines. This residual capacity should be capable of meeting Zambia's treaty obligations by 2011.	Of the 41 areas initially identified as being mined, 7 of these have been cleared and some of these have been handed over the resident communities for their use. Insufficient funding has meant that very limited clearance work has been undertaken in the past year.	According to the plan, a detailed assessment needs to be undertaken to identify all contaminated areas.	Although Zambia allocated some of its own resources to fulfil its obligations in the last three years, this amount was small compared to how much is actually required to conduct clearance and other mine action activities. At current funding rates treaty obligations will not be achieved within the given timeframe without donor assistance.	In the last three years the Government of Zambia spent approximately US\$ 250,000 in terms of human resources and funds in an effort to fulfil its treaty obligations. Given a small national budget and the several competing developmental priorities prevent, it is an indication of the Zambian government's desire and commitment to meeting its obligations.	The plan for completion hopes to maximize the long term benefits from invested resources such as trained staff which will be taking care of any threats after the clearance work is completed.	3 million \$US for the implementation of Zambia's plan for completion.
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe's plan was based on the premise that	At the end of 2005, Zimbabwe completed	About 50 percent of the 700km mined areas remain	Lack of donor funding.	In 2006, the Mine Action Programme was allocated		Donor assistance is required to increase the

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	national resources would be complemented by donor assistance. Since no assistance has been forthcoming to date, Zimbabwe does not see itself being able to meet the deadline.	clearance of the 220km Victoria Falls to Mlibizi minefield that had started about 7 years ago. 25 959 mines were destroyed in the process, 6 959 of them were destroyed last year alone.	to be cleared. Zimbabwe is placing priority on the Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner minefield which once cleared will facilitate the establishment of a transfrontier game sanctuary.		over \$US 270,000.		number of demining teams so that they can work on more than one minefield at a time. Demining equipment and logistical backup are also needed.

## Annex II : Information provided by Guatemala in the context of questions posed by the Co-Chairs

### I. Making “every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced.”

<p>What steps did your State take (e.g., general and technical surveys, assessments, et cetera) to identify areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known or were suspected to be emplaced?</p>	<p><u>Political and legal steps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1992, Guatemala first brought the mine issue to the attention of the Demining Committee of the Inter-American Defense Board.</li> <li>• During the peace negotiations, the mine / UXO issue was again put on the agenda and in 1994, the Agreement on the Reestablishment of the Populations Rooted out by the Armed Conflict was signed in Oslo. In this agreement, the parties in the conflict are “concerned for the security of those who settle down or live in areas affected by the internal conflict, the parties recognise the need to proceed with the urgent removal of every type of mines or UXO displaced or abandoned in these areas and commit to fully cooperate in these activities”.</li> <li>• In 1995, the Congress of the Republic enacted the “Law for risk reduction to inhabitants of the areas affected by the armed conflict through the identification and deactivation of mines and other explosive ordnances” and created the first Coordinating Commission of the Demining Programme.</li> <li>• In December 1996, the Agreement on the Definitive Ceasefire was signed in Oslo. It stipulates that “the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit (URNG) will provide to the United Nations detailed information on the number of staff, staff list, list of arms, explosives, mines and all the necessary information on the existence of minefields, munitions and other military equipment, [...]”.</li> <li>• Also in December 1996, the Agreement on Chronogram for Implementation, Fulfilment and Verification of the Peace Agreements was signed “to execute a program to remove all kinds of mines, taking into account that the Army of Guatemala as well as the URNG will provide to the United Nations detailed information on explosives, mines and on existence of minefields”.</li> <li>• In 1997, the OAS decided to support the Demining National Plan. The existing law was modified to create an Executive Coordination Unit (UCE) which started functioning in December 1998, integrating a delegation of the former guerrilla into the programme.</li> <li>• In 1998, the Congress of the Republic enacted the Law which allowed the ratification of the Ottawa Convention. The instrument of ratification was deposited in March 1999.</li> </ul> <p><u>Technical steps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Demining team was composed of three organisations: the Volunteer Firemen Corps, the Former guerrilla URNG and the Army Engineer Corps and their work was coordinated by the Executive Coordination Unit.</li> <li>• The OAS organised a Mission of Assistance to Remove Mines in Central America – MARMINCA – which belonged to the Inter-American Defense Board. MARMINCA was composed of military foreign staff, who advised, trained and certified mine action activities in Guatemala.</li> <li>• To identify the mine-affected areas, the Volunteer Firemen Corps developed an awareness programme through an information campaign on TV, radio, newsletters and other means taking into account the language of every region. A cartographic chart to collect information from the involved institutions and population was also developed.</li> <li>• Another strategy was to visit the population of the areas where combats took place. The participation of the Volunteer Firemen Corps was important in some affected regions where, after the 36-year internal conflict, indigenous peoples did not allow the presence of military or police members.</li> <li>• According to the peace agreements, the demobilized insurgent movement of the URNG had to provide information about any area known to have any mine / UXO in stock or deployed. At the same time, they had to participate in the awareness programme to obtain information from the population. Moreover, they had to locate and mark any mine or UXO, together with the Voluntary Firemen.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1996, when the ceasefire was given and the UN Mission for Guatemala – MINUGUA – arrived in the country, the URNG took the initiative to provide information on the location of mines and UXO through the UN in certain high risk defensive areas. In that year, the UN Blue Helmets, URNG members and the Army demined the unique registered URNG minefield, located in volcano Tajumulco. A total of 326 anti-personnel mines were destroyed. These mines had been protecting the facilities of the guerrilla’s illegal radio “Voz Popular”.</li> <li>• After exploring, locating, tracing and marking mines, the Army Corps of Engineer proceeded to destroy the ordnances. According to the Guatemalan law, the Army is the only institution entitled to handle explosives. In the whole process, the key was the information that people provided as well as the exchange of information from the Army and the demobilized URNG. In many cases, both organizations had to confess on sensitive activities and facts produced during the conflict.</li> </ul>
On what basis did your State determine that areas were or were not areas in which anti-personnel mines were suspected to be emplaced? That is, on what basis were reasonable efforts made to identify areas in which anti-personnel mines indeed were emplaced?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no minefields in Guatemala, except in the area of Volcano Tajumulco. The main criteria used to determine suspected areas were based on the records of historical activities and combats. According to these records, 13 departments and suspected zones were classified as high risk. The highest priority was the region known as “Ixil Triangle” in Northern El Quiché, where the strongest combats had been registered and there were 2 low risk areas. In the no risk areas, although there were not registered combats, some explosives such as grenades had been deployed.</li> <li>• One of the first priorities of the Demining Program was to clear the areas where the returnees were re-established and any other area representing a high risk to the populations.</li> </ul>
With respect to areas in which anti-personnel mines were suspected to be emplaced, what steps did your State take to verify that anti-personnel mines indeed were or were not in these areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After collecting information and maps on suspected areas, the teams proceeded to locate and mark mines and UXO.</li> </ul>

## **II. Ensuring that mined areas “are perimeter marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed.”**

What steps did your State take to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from areas in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced, prior to the clearance of mines from these areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An awareness campaign for populations living in the affected areas was developed in several languages.</li> <li>• Explosive foam –LEXFOAM – and mine marker PSS/12 were used to mark mines. Fences were also used to perimeter mark the mined areas. According to the Coordinator of the National Demining Program, the mine affected areas were marked with international standardized fences and posters.</li> </ul>
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## **III. Clearing mined areas “as soon as possible but not later than 10 years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.”**

How soon after entry-into-force of the Convention for your State did your State prepare and begin implementing a national demining programme?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a first demining period in 1996 when returnees had to be re-established in certain areas in the West of Guatemala. A second period started in 1997 after the peace agreements of 1996, coinciding with the adoption of the Ottawa Convention.</li> <li>• Guatemala’s demining program started operating in October 1998 and completed its work in December 2005. Mine action activities took place over a total of 7 years, plus 1 year of activities previous to the start of the demining programme.</li> </ul>
What financial, technical and other means were made available by your State itself to fulfil its obligations to clear mined areas? What financial, technical and other means were made available by others to assist your State in fulfilling its obligations?	<p><u>Technical support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mine Ban national legislation establishes that, from 1996, an annual contribution of 1 million Quetzals (~US\$ 90,000– 120,000) has to be included into the general state budget, amount which is to be administrated by the Volunteer Firemen Corps. The Executive Coordination Unit is in charge of administrating all the international donations and goods acquired for the Program.</li> <li>• During the first demining period, the UNHCR trained Volunteer Firemen Corps and a selected group of civilian refugees. From 1996, the OAS and MARMINCA trained the Army Engineer Corps in mine destruction as well as the demobilized URNG and Volunteer Firemen Corps, in their task of locating and marking minefields as well as in mine risk education.</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Financial support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarding the financial support, funds came from traditional donor countries, a few irregular donor countries and some private institutions or persons, but in irregular quantities every year. Most of these international contributions were collected and administrated by the OAS within the Demining Program in Central America. The OAS' budget annual contribution to Guatemala was of 1 million US\$, which could have been increased according to the needs.</li> <li>The main funds came from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. In 2001, the Russian Federation and Italy joined the donor group but Switzerland withdrew.</li> </ul> <p><u>Military support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Military support came mainly through MARMINCA and the Inter-American Defense Board from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, the United States of America and Venezuela, amongst others. There was also the participation of Blue Helmets from Spain, Italy.</li> </ul>
<p>On what basis did your State determine that it indeed had completed clearance of anti-personnel mines as required by the Article (e.g., by undertaking detection, clearance and quality assurance efforts pertaining to identified mined areas in accordance with international standards, et cetera)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the process of localization and marking, the Army proceeded to destroy mines and UXO. This work was supervised by MARMINCA as well as the process of "certification".</li> <li>All demining and certification procedures followed the international rules and norms of the Inter-American Defense Board (JID) published in their "Manual de procedimientos operativos de desminado humanitario".</li> <li>Unfortunately, there is always a risk to find an explosive lost in any place of the cleared areas or inside the areas that have not been affected by the internal conflict activities, as it happened a few weeks ago. For that reason, the coordination of the demining program will keep an Army demining team ready to act at any moment if any mine / UXO in stock or displaced is discovered.</li> </ul>

<sup>i</sup> See *Ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines: Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009*, Action #28.

<sup>ii</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009*, Action #23.

<sup>iii</sup> What is your State's plan to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control as soon as possible?

<sup>iv</sup> What progress has been made in the implementation of your State's national demining programme since the last time that an update was provided to the Standing Committee?

<sup>v</sup> What work remains in order for your State to be in compliance with its obligation to have destroyed or ensured the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control?

<sup>vi</sup> What, if any, circumstances may impede the ability of your State to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control within ten years after entry into force of the Convention for your State? What is the prospective end-date for your State to have fully implemented Article 5?

<sup>vii</sup> What financial and technical means has your State dedicated to ensuring the fulfillment of your State's Article 5 obligations?

<sup>viii</sup> If mine action in your country is largely managed and conducted by foreign non-governmental organizations and / or international organizations, to what extent has national ownership and local capacity development been accelerated?

<sup>ix</sup> What, if any, are your priorities for external assistance to support your State's fulfillment of its Article 5 obligations?