



Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties

2-5 DECEMBER 2013 • GENEVA

Informal meeting to discuss preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP)

Thursday 19 September

Summary

1. Review of the 13MSP programme

The President-Designate (Ambassador Boudjemâa Delmi of Algeria) recalled that, at the 30 May meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, he had presented a draft agenda and programme to the States Parties. The Co-Chairs concluded that this programme was generally acceptable to the States Parties. (Note: The draft programme of work can be found at www.13msp.org)

The President-Designate reviewed the 13MSP programme, noting that it is very similar to the programmes that have served the States Parties well in recent years. The President-Designate highlighted two exceptions being that the 13MSP will be contained within four days and that relatively greater time will be given to a more in-depth discussion on key topics concerning cooperation and assistance. He noted that this discussion will take place the morning of Tuesday 3 December and that more details regarding how delegations can prepare for this discussion will be provided in coming weeks.

Other points highlighted by the President-Designate about the 13MSP programme included the following:

- The 13MSP will begin with a brief opening ceremony, following the model used at the 12MSP. This would be followed with the meeting quickly dispensing with procedural items and then an opportunity for brief general statements.
- The 13MSP will need to consider requests for extensions on mine clearance deadlines that have been or will be submitted by seven States Parties. In keeping with the practices successfully employed since 2008, on the afternoon of Monday 2 December there will be an opportunity for informal presentations of and discussions on these requests. The meeting will return to formal consideration of these requests on Thursday 5 December.
- In keeping with past practice, the “consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention” will be organized thematically to include universalization, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance and the other matters important for achieving the States Parties’ aims. All States Parties providing updates on implementation efforts during the “consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention,” for example on mine

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clearance, victim assistance and stockpile destruction, should avoid duplication with respect to the updates they provided in May.

- Further to decisions and recommendations of past meetings of the States Parties, States Parties which previously have been granted extensions are requested to provide updates on efforts to implement the plans contained in extension requests. Such updates should clearly document progress and challenges relative to what each State Party committed to achieve.
- Consideration of the ISU's 2014 work plan and budget, its preliminary report on 2013 activities, functioning and finances, and its 2012 audited annual financial report, as well as all other matters related to implementation support, will take place on Thursday 5 December.
- In order that time is used efficiently, matters that are the responsibility of the Third Review Conference should be dealt with during the Review Conference preparatory process, not during the 13MSP.

2. Actions for consideration by the States Parties at the 13MSP

a. Comments on the draft *Geneva Progress Report 2012-2013*

The President-Designate recalled that in May he had informed the States Parties that, in keeping with past practice, he would produce a progress report covering the period between the 12MSP and the 13MSP. The President-Designate invited written comments to be submitted to him C/O the ISU (isu@apminebanconvention.org) by the close of business on Friday 27 September. He would then proceed in submitting a revised draft to the 13MSP, although with the document remaining open until sometime in the middle of week of 2 December to be updated with any additional information that emerges by that time. (Note: The draft Geneva Progress Report can be found at www.13msp.org)

b. Update on Article 5 extension requests

The President-Designate noted that the 13MSP will need to consider requests for extended mine clearance deadlines that have been submitted by seven States Parties. The 12MSP President (Ambassador Matjaz Kovavic of Slovenia) provided an update on the process of analysing these requests, noting that the analysing group has completed its work with respect to the requests submitted by Niger, Serbia, Sudan and Turkey and that these analyses will soon be made available on the Convention's website. The 12MSP President further indicated that the analysing group hopes to conclude work by the end of the month on requests submitted by Chad and Germany and that with respect to Mozambique's request, the analysing process will be delayed because Mozambique has informed the group that a revised request will not be submitted until the end of September.

The 12MSP President reminded all States Parties that wish to have a request considered at the Third Review Conference to submit their requests by 15 December 2013. He noted that late requests adversely affect the analysis process and this point needs to be taken into consideration more than ever given the short time between the 13MSP and the Maputo Summit.

The 12MSP President recalled that the 12MSP adopted various recommendations on ensuring a cooperative engagement of Article 5 implementing States Parties continues

after requests have been granted. He noted that these recommendations include that States Parties that have been granted extensions should provide updates on efforts to implement the plans contained in their requests, with such updates clearly documenting progress and challenges relative to what States Parties committed to achieve. In this regard, he indicated that he will soon write to States Parties concerned to encourage such updates.

c. Update on dates for meetings in 2014

The President-Designate recalled that at the 30 May meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Co-Chairs concluded that there was strong support for the Coordinating Committees of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) to aim to schedule the intersessional meetings of each Convention during the same week in 2014. CCM intersessional meetings will take place the first 2.5 days of the week of 7 April 2014.

The President-Designate further recalled that, given this, at its 3 July meeting, the Coordinating Committee discussed the idea of scheduling meetings of the Convention during the last 2.5 days of the week of 7 April 2014. The Coordinating Committee concluded that the optimal proposal would be to see that intersessional work would take place the afternoon of 9 April, that a second preparatory meeting in advance of the Third Review Conference¹ would take place all day on 10 April, and that additional intersessional work could take place on 11 April subject to the Coordinating Committee considering what, if any, additional intersessional work may be required given the short period of time between the 13MSP and the Third Review Conference.

d. Appointment of new Co-Chairs

The President-Designate recalled that in keeping with established tradition, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention (Bulgaria and New Zealand) undertook the task this year of consulting with States Parties to identify a list of nominees to serve as new Co-Chairs following the 13MSP. On 11 March, the Co-Chairs wrote to all States Parties to indicate that they were seeking one new State Party for each of the five Standing Committees for two year terms. At the 27 May meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Co-Chairs again reminded delegations of their written appeal.

The President-Designate indicated that, based upon interest expressed, Bulgaria and New Zealand are proposing that the following States Parties serve as Co-Chairs from the end of the 13MSP for a two-year term:

- General Status and Operation of the Convention: Belgium
- Victim Assistance: Costa Rica
- Mine Clearance: Japan
- Resources, Cooperation and Assistance: Indonesia
- Stockpile Destruction: Poland

The President-Designate explained that, if this proposal is agreed to by the 13MSP, the above mentioned States Parties would join the following, which would be completing

¹ The Third Review Conference will take place in Maputo from 30 June to 4 July 2014, with related activities taking place on Sunday 29 July.

the second year of their two year terms between the end of the 13MSP and the end of the Third Review Conference:

- Status and Operation of the Convention: New Zealand
- Victim Assistance: Austria
- Mine Clearance: Mozambique
- Resources, Cooperation and Assistance: Ecuador
- Stockpile Destruction: Norway

(Note: In carrying out their consultations, Bulgaria and New Zealand indicated that the selection of Co-Chairs at the 13MSP no doubt would be without prejudice to decisions the Third Review Conference in 2014 may wish to take with respect to the Convention's committee structure or its meeting programme.)

e. Reminder regarding the ISU 2014 work plan and budget

The President-Designate recalled that the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU" adopted by the 10MSP instructs the ISU to propose and present a work plan and budget for the activities of the ISU for the following year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval.

The ISU Director (Kerry Brinkert) indicated that his intention is to produce a 2014 work plan and budget that continues to incorporate savings from recent years and which features activity levels generally consistent with those contained in the 2012 and 2013 work plans, with the exception that the 2014 work plan will need to incorporate support for a Review Conference taking place outside of Geneva. The ISU Director asked that, if States Parties have other views with respect to this approach, they should contact him as soon as possible and no later than 30 September as a draft work plan and budget will need to be prepared for initial consideration by the Coordinating Committee.

The ISU Director also recalled that that, at the 11MSP, the States Parties decided to maintain the ISU's existing (voluntary) funding model and agreed to improve the financial situation of the ISU and to ensure that sufficient contributions are provided to the ISU as long as the financing model remains unchanged. The ISU Director informed delegations that, to date in 2013, 19 States Parties have provided contributions in support of the work plan agreed to at the 13MSP and 142 States Parties have not yet provided contributions. He further indicated that approximately CHF 260,000 are still required in order to fully fund the 2013 work plan and that if States Parties require any additional documentation to facilitate a contribution, the ISU would be pleased to provide it.

f. Other possible actions

No delegation took the floor to provide information on any other proposed action for the 13MSP to consider.

3. Updates on organizational matters

The 13MSP Secretary-General (Ambassador Urs Schmid of Switzerland) indicated that coordination is proceeding well with the President-Designate and the ISU on organizational matters, including on raising the visibility of the Convention in Geneva during the week of the 13MSP. He also indicated that a joint Algerian-Swiss reception will take place the evening of Monday 2 December. The 13MSP Executive Secretary (Peter Kolarov of the UNODA) reminded

delegations that official notification of the 13MSP was provided to all States by the UN Secretary-General early this year. The 13MSP Secretary-General further recalled that each State Party and observer intending to take part in the 13MSP should inform him (pkolarov@unog.ch) through a note verbale of the composition delegations. The 13MSP Secretary-General also indicated that the 13MSP will take place in Room XIX at the Palais des Nations, that three additional rooms are available for side events and that limited space is available for exhibitions.

(Note: Contact pkolarov@unog.ch for requests for exhibition space and isu@apminebanconvention.org for requests for side event space.)

4. Third Review Conference preparatory meeting

The President-Designate recalled that the first preparatory meeting in advance of the Third Review Conference will take place on 6 December. Elias Jaime Zimba, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of Mozambique, provided an update on the preparation of this meeting. He recalled the intended outcomes of the Third Review Conference – the Maputo Summit on a Mine-Free World – as indicated by the President-Designate in May, and noted that in advance of the First Preparatory Meeting four discussion papers would be distributed:

- A paper that provides background on our Convention's meeting programme to date and raises key questions that we should consider in order that the President-Designate may refine a proposal for the kind of meeting programme that will best serve the pursuit of the Convention's aims beyond the Review Conference, with a Second Preparatory Meeting on April 10th being an opportunity to debate such a specific proposal
- A paper that proposes the method to be used to review the major implementation advances observed and challenges encountered during the period since the Second Review Conference, with the President-Designate proceeding in preparing a draft, detailed review document for initial consideration in April if the proposed method is acceptable.
- A paper that raises questions with respect to each of the Convention's core aims regarding commitments that the States Parties may wish to make in the Maputo Action Plan to ensure further success in ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines, with the President-Designate preparing a draft action plan for delegations to respond to at the Second Preparatory Meeting in April.
- A brief paper that suggests elements to consider in a political declaration, with a draft declaration prepared for initial consideration in April.

Mr. Zimba indicated that the programme for the First Preparatory Meeting would similarly relate to the four main outcome documents expected at the Review Conference with delegations ideally interacting with the discussion papers mentioned above. In addition in advance of the First Preparatory Meeting, the President-Designate will propose a programme for the Review Conference itself. Mr. Zimba recalled that, in terms of this draft programme, the President-Designate had suggested in May that the previous two Review Conferences provide a successful model, noting that this model involves the expectation that participation in the Third Review Conference would be at the highest possible level during a high level segment at the end of the conference.

5. Any other business

No delegation took the floor with respect to any other business.