

Second Meeting
Geneva, 11-15 September 2000

**PRESIDENT'S PAPER ON AMENDING THE
ARTICLE 7 REPORTING FORMAT**

Background:

At the January meeting of the Standing Committee of Experts on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Article 7 reporting process was discussed. While lessons were learned about difficulties encountered by States Parties in implementing this provision of the Convention, it was the sense of the Co-Chairs that there was general satisfaction with the reporting format accepted at the First Meeting of the States Parties in Maputo.

As well, ideas were put forward with respect to possibilities for States Parties to update reports via the Internet. The United Nations should be recognized for the work it has undertaken to develop these ideas. However, concerns were expressed that several States Parties have not submitted reports on time and that of those that have, few have done so electronically. Therefore, it was the sense of the Co-Chairs that while working toward more efficient Internet-based reporting would be a worthwhile medium-term goal, current efforts with respect to Article 7 reporting should focus on increasing the rate of compliance and ensuring that States in a position to do so submit reports electronically.

In addition, as part of the work programme of the Standing Committee of Experts on Victim Assistance, Socio-Economic Reintegration and Mine Awareness, the Victim Assistance Reporting Network Group (VARNG) developed a draft reporting form and recommended its acceptance at the 29-31 March 2000 meeting of the SCE on Victim Assistance. The recommendation was not accepted, as States Parties expressed concerns, which included concern that the process may duplicate existing reporting efforts, "reporting fatigue", the fact

that victim assistance is just one of several Article 6 obligations for which reporting is not an obligation for States Parties, and the difficulties that would be faced by mine-affected States in responding to the proposed form.

The Co-Chairs of the SCE on the General Status and Operation of the Convention recognized the important role that the SCE on Victim Assistance played in highlighting the need for instruments to indicate the extent to which States “in a position to do so” have met their obligations under Article 6 of the Convention, particularly the obligation to “provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.”

As a possible means of meeting the need highlighted by the SCE on Victim Assistance in a manner that is sensitive to the concerns expressed by States Parties at the March meeting of that Standing Committee, the Co-Chairs of the SCE on the General Status and Operation of the Convention proposed amending the Article 7 reporting format to include an additional form for voluntary reporting on these matters. The proposal put forward by the Co-Chairs was designed to provide an opportunity for States Parties to submit voluntary reports on matters considered important in complying with obligations under Article 6, paragraph 3. However, this proposal was also designed to provide States Parties with maximum flexibility in making voluntary reports and to capture, at the discretion of each individual State Party, additional matters pertaining to the implementation of the Convention not covered by formal Article 7 reporting requirements. At the 29-30 May 2000 meeting of the SCE on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, this proposal, in the form of the following recommendations, was accepted:

- In order to provide States Parties with the opportunity to report voluntarily on matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7, it was recommended that the Article 7 reporting format be amended to include an additional form. (See attached “Form J: Other relevant matters”.)

- It was further recommended that States Parties consider using this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.

Form J: Other relevant matters

Remark: States Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from
_____ to _____

[Narrative / reference to other reports]
