

QUESTIONS TO ASSIST STATES PARTIES IN PREPARING FOR 8MSP THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

President-Designate of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties

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INTRODUCTION

At the 8MSP, thematic discussions will be held on the core aims of the Convention and on other matters essential for achieving the aims of the Convention. It is the President-Designate's hope that those States Parties which are in the process of clearing mined areas, assisting the victims, destroying stockpiled mines or fulfilling other obligations will seize the opportunity presented by the 8MSP's thematic discussions to provide further clarity or new information on the steps they are taking to fulfill their responsibilities.

In order to prepare updates on these matters, relevant States Parties may wish to provide additional information in accordance with following questions posed by the Co-Chairs in advance of the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees. In preparing updates, States Parties should take into account that only new information should be provided, that updates on most matters should be brief and that updates on more complex aspects of implementation (e.g., mine clearance) should not exceed eight minutes.

I. AGENDA ITEM 11.b – DESTROYING STOCKPILED ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in the process of fulfilling Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations

1. What steps has your State taken to establish the type, quantity, and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed?
2. What appropriate national and local capacities have been established to meet your Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations?
3. What is the status of your State's stockpile destruction programme? (How many mines have been destroyed and remain to be destroyed? What is your time table for the destruction of these mines?)
4. What, if any, difficulties do you face in the destruction of your stockpiled anti-personnel mines? If relevant, what are your priorities for external financial, technical or other assistance?

Questions for consideration by States Parties which have recently fulfilled Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations

1. What steps did your State take to establish the type, quantity, and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed?
2. What appropriate national and local capacities were established or used to meet your State's Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations?
3. What methods were used to destroy the stockpiled mines, where were the mines destroyed and what safety and environmental standards were observed in the destruction process?
4. How many mines of which types were destroyed and during which time period?
5. What, if any, difficulties did your State face in the destruction of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines and how were these challenges overcome?

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in a position to provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines

1. What is your State's position with respect to assistance for stockpile destruction? Do you have a budget or a fund to support stockpile destruction?
2. Since the 7MSP, what has your State done to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for stockpile destruction, responding to priorities for assistance as articulated by those States Parties in need?
3. Since the 7MSP, what has your State done to support the investigation and further development of technical solutions to overcome the particular challenges associated with destroying PFM mines?
4. What can / should be done to overcome challenges associated with providing assistance for stockpile destruction programmes?
5. Has your State encountered difficulties in identifying an internal funding source that could be used to support other States' stockpile destruction programmes?

II. AGENDA ITEM 11.c – CLEARING MINED AREAS

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 mine clearance obligations

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. 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?
4. 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?
5. What financial and technical means has your State dedicated to ensuring the fulfillment of your State's Article 5 obligations?
6. If mine action in your country is still conducted or partially managed by foreign organizations and/or international organizations, what are the steps that your State has taken to develop its national capacity?
7. What, if any, are your priorities for external assistance to support your State's fulfillment of its Article 5 obligations?

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in a position to provide assistance in implementation of Article 5 obligations

1. What has your State done, since the 7MSP, to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for mine clearance and mine risk education?

2. Since the 7MSP, how has your State used the following means to provide support in the fulfillment of Article 5 obligations?
 - a. Dedicated funds to assist in the implementation of the Convention?
 - b. The integration of support to mine action into humanitarian programmes?
 - c. The integration of support to mine action into development programmes?
 - d. The integration of support to mine action into peace-building programmes?
 - e. The integration of support to mine action into peace support programmes?
3. What are your plans between now and the Second Review Conference to ensure the continuity and sustainability of resource commitments?

III. AGENDA ITEM 11.d – ASSISTING THE VICTIMS

II. Questions for consideration by States Parties which have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors

1. What further progress has your State made in ensuring that the victim assistance objectives you have established will provide both a meaningful improvement in the quality of daily lives of mine survivors and other people with disabilities in your State by the end of 2009 and will ensure that this progress can be measured? That is, are your objectives SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound?
2. Can you provide specific examples of the engagement of relevant ministries in the processes of establishing victim assistance objectives and developing and/or implementing subsequent plans of action? How have other relevant actors been involved in these processes?
3. Can you provide specific examples of progress in achieving victim assistance objectives that are integrated into your broader health care and social service systems, rehabilitation programmes and legislative and policy frameworks?

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in a position to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors

4. Since the 7MSP, has your State provided assistance from specialized mine action or post-conflict funds and to or through organizations whose efforts are intended to specifically target landmine survivors and other war wounded with a view to assisting any of the 24 States Parties to the Convention which have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of mine victims?
5. Since the 7MSP, has your development agency been engaged in broader bilateral development cooperation with any of the 24 States Parties to the Convention which have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of mine victims?
6. With respect to one or more bilateral cooperation relationships between your State and the 24 States Parties in question, can you provide examples or case studies of how your development agency's may ultimately advance the well being of landmine survivors enhancing / building capacity in / delivering programmes and services with respect to:
 - a. health care data collection (particularly injury surveillance)
 - b. emergency and ongoing medical care
 - c. physical rehabilitation
 - d. psychological support and social reintegration
 - e. economic reintegration
 - f. legal and policy frameworks to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities?

7. What is the policy of your development agency as it concerns disability and development programming?

IV. AGENDA ITEM 11.e.ii – TRANSPARENCY AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Information States Parties which have retained anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 3 may wish to consider sharing:

1. The quantity and type of mines retained and the manner in which the number of mines has changed since it was recorded in the *7MSP Geneva Progress Report*.
2. The purposes for which retained mines have been used and the results of this use, including for example:
 - the mine detection, clearance or destruction techniques that have been / are being developed;
 - the mine detection, clearance or destruction training that has been carried out;
 - the number of personnel trained and to what standard.
3. Plans for the further development of mine detection, clearance or detection techniques and further training which would result in the use of mines retained under Article 3.

V. AGENDA ITEM 11.e.iii – PREVENTING AND SUPPRESSING PROHIBITED ACTS

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in the process of developing and adopting legislative measures in accordance with Article 9

1. What measures have been taken to disseminate information regarding the Convention's prohibitions to your State's armed forces and its military academies?
2. What measures have been taken to make adjustments, in light of the Convention's prohibitions, to the training of your State's armed forces and in the development of training bulletins?
3. What measures have been taken to harmonise your State's armed forces' standing operating procedures and military doctrine with the Convention's obligations?
4. What measures have been taken to issue directives to police forces regarding preventing and suppressing prohibited acts?