



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer  
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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## **PROGRAMME FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES<sup>1</sup>**

**MAY 8-12, 2006**

### **MONDAY 8 MAY**

#### **Opening of the week of Standing Committee meetings**

##### **10:00 Opening of the week of meetings**

The week of meetings will be opened by Ms. Dijana Plestina of Croatia (Advisor to the President of the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia) and by Ambassador Stephan Nellen (Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining).

Note: In keeping with past practice, the programme for the week has been structured to include discussion items on numerous specific topics of interest to the States Parties. Therefore, participants are encouraged to participate actively in discussions on specific topics and to refrain from making statements of a general nature.

#### **Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention**

##### **10:15 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs**

The Co-Chairs (Belgium and Guatemala) have prepared a programme that covers four areas of work: (i) an overall assessment of the status of the pursuit of the Convention's core aims; (ii) discussions on matters of cross-cutting interest to all Standing Committees; (iii) ongoing consideration of the implementation of various articles of the Convention which have traditionally been discussed by this Standing Committee; and, (d) updates on the work of various implementation mechanisms.

#### **Overview of the general status of implementation: Update on the pursuit of the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan and the priorities contained in the Zagreb Progress Report**

The Presidency of the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties (6MSP) will review progress made to date in the pursuit of the 70 action points contained in the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009 and the various priorities recorded in the Zagreb Progress Report.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: (a) Participants are encouraged to participate actively in discussions on specific topics and to refrain from making statements of a general nature. (b) The principle of flexibility will be applied with respect to time allocations (e.g., if one Standing Committee meeting uses less than its allocated time the subsequent Standing Committee meeting could immediately commence). (c) States Parties providing updates on implementation are encouraged to provide only new information.

### Overview of the general status of universalization

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that during the period 2005 to 2009, universal adherence to the Convention “will remain an important object of cooperation among States Parties.”<sup>2</sup> Given progress made in 2005 in the application of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, at the 6MSP the following were identified in the *Zagreb Progress Report* as priorities in the period leading to the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP):

“All States Parties should direct specific efforts towards encouraging progress by those States not parties which have indicated that they could ratify or accede to the Convention in the near-term (...).”<sup>3</sup>

“In keeping with Action #3 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, all States Parties and those that share their aims should continue and increase universalization efforts that place a priority on those States not parties that produce, use, transfer and maintain large stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, including those developing new kinds of anti-personnel mines. In addition, efforts should continue to bring into the Convention those mine-affected States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention.”<sup>4</sup>

“In accordance with Action #7 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, efforts should continue to promote universal observance of the Convention’s norms by condemning, and taking appropriate steps to end the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by armed non-State actors.”<sup>5</sup>

The Coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group (Canada) will provide an overview of steps taken since the 6MSP to promote universalization. As well, the Co-Chairs hope that relevant actors will take advantage of the following opportunities for participation in the discussion on universalization:

- **Opportunity for States not parties which have taken steps towards ratification of, or accession to, the Convention to provide updates or make announcements regarding the date when they intend to join the Convention.**
- **Opportunity for States Parties and organizations that have contributed to universalization efforts to provide updates on their activities.**

### The mobilisation of resources to achieve the Convention’s aims

In the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the States Parties recognized that fulfilling their obligations during the period 2005-2009 and effectively pursuing the actions and strategies set out in the *Nairobi Action Plan* will require substantial political, financial and material commitments.<sup>6</sup> To further advance efforts in accordance with the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the *Zagreb Progress Report* recorded seven priorities for work in this area in the period leading to the 7MSP.<sup>7</sup>

With respect to these matters, the Coordinator of the Resource Mobilisation Contact Group (Norway) will provide an update on ongoing discussions on all facets related to mobilising and efficiently using resources to implement the Convention.

<sup>2</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, paragraph 2.

<sup>3</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 18(i).

<sup>4</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 18(ii).

<sup>5</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 18(iii).

<sup>6</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #13, #14, #23, #25, #26, #27, #36, #43, #44, #45, #46, #47 and #50.

<sup>7</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 95(i) to paragraph 95(vii).

- **Opportunity for States Parties and others to provide updates on the application of actions in the *Nairobi Action Plan* that concern all facets of resource mobilisation as well as on work undertaken in the context of relevant priorities recorded in the *Zagreb Progress Report*.**

### **Transparency and the exchange of information**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* urges the States Parties that have not yet done so to fulfil their obligation to provide initial transparency reports under Article 7 without further delay and calls upon all State Parties to fulfil their obligations to annually update Article 7 transparency reports and maximise reporting as a tool to assist in implementation.<sup>8</sup> To advance efforts in accordance with the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the *Zagreb Progress Report* recorded seven priorities for work in this area in the period leading to the 7MSP.<sup>9</sup>

The Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group (Belgium) will provide an overview of efforts related to transparency reporting, including by providing an overview of the status of reporting under Article 7 of the Convention.

- **Opportunity for States Parties and others to provide updates on the application of actions in the *Nairobi Action Plan* that concern transparency and the exchange of information as well as on work undertaken in the context of relevant priorities recorded in the *Zagreb Progress Report*.**

### **Article 3: Updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques** (time permitting)

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that “transparency and the open exchange of information have been essential pillars on which the Convention’s practices, procedures and tradition of partnership have been built,” and, that “the States Parties recognize that transparency and effective information exchange will be equally crucial to fulfilling their obligations during the period 2005-2009.”<sup>10</sup> To this end, the States Parties agreed to a number of actions, including that “all States Parties will (...) in situations where States Parties have retained mines in accordance with the exceptions in Article 3, provide information on the plans requiring the retention of mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques and report on the actual use of retained mines and the results of such use.”<sup>11</sup>

To assist States Parties in applying Action #54 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the States Parties at the 6MSP agreed to amend the Article 7 reporting format, thus creating a means for States Parties to share information in addition to what is minimally required on mines retained in accordance with Article 3. In addition, the Co-Chairs have distributed a series of questions to relevant States Parties to assist them in acting in accordance with Action #54. (Document 2.1.)

- **Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported mines retained for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share information on their plans requiring the retention of mines in accordance with Article 3, the actual use of these mines and the results of this use.** (See Document 2.1.)

<sup>8</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #51 and #52.

<sup>9</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 114(i) to paragraph 114(v).

<sup>10</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, paragraph 7.

<sup>11</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #54.

- **Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported that they have not retained mines for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share their experiences.**

**13:00 Meeting adjourns until Friday 12 May at 11:30**

## **Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration**

**15:00 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs**

The Co-Chairs' (Afghanistan and Switzerland) primary aim is to support progress in the fulfilment of the commitment that all States Parties made in the *Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009* to enhance our efforts in regard to the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors. This is particularly important for the 24 States Parties that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers – hundreds or thousands, if not tens-of-thousands – of landmine survivors.

### **Overview of the status of implementation**

- **Presentation by the Co-Chairs.**

### **Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation**

As the ultimate responsibility of meeting the needs of landmine survivors within a particular State rests with that State, no external actor can define for it what can or should be achieved by when and how in meeting the needs of these survivors. In 2005, many of the 24 relevant States Parties made significant advances toward defining these matters. Annex V of the *Zagreb Progress Report* records this progress by containing an overview of the efforts of these States Parties in establishing victim assistance objectives to be achieved in time for the Second Review Conference.

The *Zagreb Progress Report* additionally states that “while objectives may have been established by many of the 24 States Parties that have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of survivors, it is essential that these States Parties proceed with the more complex task of developing comprehensive national plans to guide the fulfilment of these objectives, ensuring that these plans integrate mine victim assistance into broader health care and social service systems, rehabilitation programmes and legislative and policy frameworks.”<sup>12</sup>

- **Opportunity for updates by those States Parties<sup>13</sup> that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers of landmine survivors. (See Document 2.2.)**
- **Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers of landmine survivors.**

<sup>12</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 80(i).

<sup>13</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda and Yemen.

- **Opportunity for updates from other States Parties and from States not parties.**

**18:00 Meeting adjourns until Tuesday 9 May at 10:00**

## **TUESDAY 9 MAY**

### **Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration**

**10:00 Meeting reconvenes**

#### **Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation** (continued)

- **Opportunity for updates by those States Parties<sup>14</sup> that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers of landmine survivors. (See Document 2.2.)**
- **Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers of landmine survivors**
- **Opportunity for updates from other States Parties and from States not parties**

#### **Good practices in inter-ministerial coordination**

The inter-ministerial process of establishing objectives and developing national plans involves a series of steps which should be taken to ensure success. A brief presentation will be made on these steps, highlighting good examples provided by various States Parties and foreshadowing ongoing efforts on the part of the Co-Chairs in this area.

- **Presentation by the Victim Assistance Specialist of the Implementation Support Unit of the GICHD.**

#### **Promoting the quality of and access to medical first aid for mine victims**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that States Parties, particularly those with the greatest numbers of mine victims, will do their utmost to “establish and enhance health care services to respond to immediate and ongoing medical needs of mine victims.”<sup>15</sup> With particular regard to the quality of and access to medical first aid, the Co-Chairs intend to highlight the magnitude of the challenges and stimulate discussion on ways to overcome these challenges.

- **Expert presentations.**

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<sup>14</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda and Yemen.

<sup>15</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #29.

**13:00 Break for lunch**

**15:00 Promoting the quality of and access to medical first aid for mine victims** (continued)

**Cooperation and assistance in the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of landmine survivors**

In the *Zagreb Progress Report*, it was noted that: “Providing support that will benefit landmine survivors can take many forms. Important assistance can be and is provided by or through specialized organizations in which assistance specifically targets landmine survivors and other war wounded. Tracking and measuring such assistance is relatively easy. However, it has proven difficult to track and measure benefits that flow specifically to landmine survivors through integrated approaches in which development cooperation aims to guarantee the rights of all persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors.”<sup>16</sup>

In addition, the *Zagreb Progress Report* recorded as a priority that “given that the objectives established by the 24 most affected States Parties provide a clearer picture of their priorities for assistance, an emphasis could be placed on an enriched exchange of information on ways in which States Parties in a position to do so are fulfilling their obligations under Article 6(3) as called for in action #36 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*.”<sup>17</sup>

To help assess steps taken in response to this priority, the Co-Chairs hope that those States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors will provide updates.

- **Opportunity for updates by State Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors.**

**Other matters of a thematic nature concerning the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of landmine survivors**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* also includes action points pertaining to psychological and social support, socio-economic reintegration, and national legal and policy frameworks.<sup>18</sup> The Co-Chairs, therefore, would like to provide an opportunity for updates by actors that are working to advance progress with respect to these matters.

- **Opportunity for updates on other matters of a thematic nature.**

**Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs**

**18:00 Meeting ends**

**18:15 Reception hosted by the Director of the GICHD**

Location: Attique Restaurant, WMO Building.

<sup>16</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 75.

<sup>17</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 80(iii).

<sup>18</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #30, #31, #32 and #33.

## WEDNESDAY 10 MAY

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

#### **10:00 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs**

The Co-Chairs' (Jordan and Slovenia) aim is to pursue work in three areas: (i) providing an opportunity for clear updates from the 45 States Parties that are still in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations; (ii) providing an opportunity for updates from those in a position to provide assistance; and, (iii) enhancing understanding of what it means to implement Article 5, in part by drawing upon the experience of those whom have reported completion and in part by holding a discussion on the basis of a discussion paper that the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs have provided.

#### **An overview of the status of implementation of Article 5**

- **Co-Chairs' presentation on progress in implementing Article 5.**

#### **Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation**

The *Zagreb Progress Report* recorded as a priority that “in keeping with action #19 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, each State Party which has reported areas containing anti-personnel mines but which has not yet established a plan to clear these areas by its deadline should establish such a plan as soon as possible and share information on its plan and progress in implementing it, using mechanisms such as Article 7 reporting and the Intersessional Work Programme, and all States Parties shall ensure that their plans, and the implementation of them, are consistent with Article 5 obligations.”

To maximize the opportunity presented by the Intersessional Work Programme in 2006, the Co-Chairs have developed a questionnaire (Document 2.3) as a means for the 45 States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 mine clearance obligations to structure presentations to the Standing Committee on 10-11 May. The Co-Chairs hope that if the 45 relevant States Parties provide information as is suggested, the States Parties as a whole – by the time of the 7MSP – will have a high degree of clarity with respect to steps that are being taken to meet expectations in the implementation of Article 5.

- **Opportunity for updates by those States Parties<sup>19</sup> which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5 of the Convention (See Document 2.3.)**

Note: Given that many States Parties have already provided comprehensive background presentations on the situations in their countries, the Co-Chairs kindly request that only new information be provided to the Standing Committee.

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<sup>19</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guinea Bissau, Jordan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

- **Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations.**

**13:00 Break for lunch**

**15:00 Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation (continued)**

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

In 2005, two additional States Parties – Guatemala and Suriname – indicated that they had completed what was required of them under Article 5 of the Convention. In doing so, these States Parties helped contribute to a growing body of information on the implementation of Article 5. The purpose of this agenda item is to draw upon the experiences of relevant States Parties in better understanding what completion means to them and what it took to arrive at that point.

- **Presentation by the Implementation Support Unit of the GICHD on information compiled from the States Parties that have reported fulfilment of Article 5 obligations.**
- **Sharing of experiences by States Parties that have recently indicated that they have completed implementation of Article 5.**

**Enhancing understanding of the implementation of Article 5**

At the 6MSP, many States Parties engaged in discussion on the topic of ensuring success in the implementation of Article 5. Part of this discussion related to the need to identify means to assist the States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations in: (a) demystifying what it means to have completely fulfilled Article 5 obligations; (b) if necessary, developing requests for extensions in accordance with the criteria in Article 5, paragraph 4, which would meet the States Parties’ obvious high expectations of these requests; and (c) the development of plans for ensuring *completion* – as defined by Article 5 – “as soon as possible.”

It is the Co-Chairs’ hope that the Standing Committee will engage in more in-depth discussion on this matter, with the paper (See Document 2.4) which has been distributed by the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs serving as a basis for this discussion.

- **Opportunity for States Parties and others to discuss the ideas contained in the paper distributed by the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs as well as any related matter concerning enhancing understanding of the implementation of Article 5. (See Document 2.4.)**

**18:00 Meeting adjourns until Thursday 11 May at 10:00**

## THURSDAY 11 MAY

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

#### 10:00 Meeting reconvenes

##### Cooperation and assistance in clearing mined areas

At the First Review Conference, the States Parties concluded that “the challenge for both traditional and non-traditional States Parties in a position to do so will be to ensure a renewed commitment to assist others during the period 2005-2009, 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.”<sup>20</sup>

To promote an assessment of progress in overcoming this challenge, the Co-Chairs have distributed a questionnaire (Document 2.5) to mine action contributors and have encouraged them to share responses to this questionnaire at the Standing Committee meeting.

- **Opportunity for updates by States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for clearing mined areas.** (See Document 2.5.)

##### An overview of progress made and challenges that remain in the field of mine risk education

The *Zagreb Progress Report* recorded that “given the advances made in the field of mine risk education, a priority should be placed on applying the relevant International Mine Action Standards in keeping with Action #21 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, particularly by ensuring that all clearance operations have a community liaison component as stipulated by these standards.”<sup>21</sup> Coordinators of an informal working group on mine risk education will provide an update on efforts in this area.

- **Overview provided by Handicap International, on behalf of the ICBL, and / or UNICEF on efforts undertaken in the field of mine risk education.**

##### An overview of progress made and challenges that remain in the field of mine action technologies

The *Zagreb Progress Report* recorded as a priority that “in accordance with actions #26 and #27 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, States Parties should ensure an adequate supply and most efficient use of existing technologies to further integrate available technologies into clearance operations.”<sup>22</sup> The coordinator of an informal mine action technologies experts’ group will provide an update on efforts in this area.

- **Overview provided by Professor Marc Acheroy of Belgium on the status of efforts undertaken in the field of mine action technologies.**

<sup>20</sup> *Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention 1999-2004*, paragraph 91.

<sup>21</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 55(vi).

<sup>22</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 55(vii).

Note: While there may be discussion that follows the overview presentation made by the Coordinator of the informal technology experts' group, it is the Co-Chairs' intention that the Coordinator's presentation would be the only pre-prepared presentation on the matter of mine action technologies. Hence, relevant actors who wish to have their information and points of view incorporated into the overview presentation should contact the Coordinator, Professor Marc Acheroy of Belgium (marc.acheroy@rma.ac.be).

### **Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs**

**13:00 Meeting ends**

## **Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction**

**15:00 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs**

A total of 136 States Parties either never held anti-personnel mines or now no longer hold them and together the States Parties have destroyed almost 38 million mines. However, 14 States Parties are in the process of destroying their stockpiled anti-personnel mines and some may need assistance in destroying large stockpiles. In addition, some States Parties have not yet provided an Article 7 transparency report to confirm that no stockpiles are in their possession. It remains in the interest of the health of the Convention that we place a high priority on meeting our deadlines for stockpile destruction. During the 11-12 May meeting, the Co-Chairs (Japan and the United Republic of Tanzania) hope that many States Parties and others will share information on these matters.

### **An overview of the status of stockpile destruction**

- **Co-Chairs' presentation on progress in implementing Article 4.**
- **Views of the ICBL on the state of implementation.**

### **Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* states that the State Parties that have not yet completed their anti-personnel stockpile destruction programmes will: establish the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed, and report this information as required by Article 7; establish appropriate national and local capacities to meet their Article 4 obligations; strive to complete their destruction programmes if possible in advance of their four-year deadlines; and, make their problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance known in a timely manner.<sup>23</sup>

It is the Co-Chairs hope that relevant States Parties will use the opportunity presented by the Standing Committee meeting, as is suggested in the *Nairobi Action Plan*, to share information on their "problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance."

- **Opportunity for an update by the State Party (Algeria) which has recently completed its destruction programme.**

<sup>23</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #9, #10, #11 and #12.

- **Opportunity for updates by those States Parties<sup>24</sup> which are in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 4 of the Convention. (See Document 2.6.)**
- **Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties which are in the process of fulfilling Article 4 obligations.**

#### **Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of transparency reporting**

The *Zagreb Progress Report* recorded that a priority for the period leading to the September 2006 Seventh Meeting of the States Parties is that “efforts should be taken to ensure that those States Parties that have not reported their stockpile status in their Article 7 transparency reports do so in a timely manner.” The Co-Chairs hope, therefore, that relevant States Parties will provide updates on the status of the preparation of their initial transparency reports, particularly with respect to reporting on the existence or absence of stockpiled anti-personnel mines under their control or jurisdiction.

- **Opportunity for updates by States Parties that have not yet confirmed their stockpile status in an Article 7 transparency report.**

#### **The destruction of previously unknown stockpiles**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* states, in Action #15, that “all States Parties will, when previously unknown stockpiles are discovered after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed, report such discoveries in accordance with their obligations under Article 7, take advantage of other informal means to share such information and destroy these mines as a matter of urgency.” It is the Co-Chairs’ hope that relevant States Parties will provide updates on this matter as it concerns weapons caches that include anti-personnel mines which have been discovered in, or otherwise have come under the control of, a State Party since the completion of its stockpile destruction programme.

- **Opportunity for updates by States Parties on anti-personnel mines discovered after the completion of destruction programmes.**

**18:00 Meeting adjourns until 10:00 on Friday 12 May.**

## **FRIDAY 12 MAY**

### **Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction**

**10:00 Meeting reconvenes**

#### **Cooperation and assistance in the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* states that States Parties in a position to do so will: “act upon their obligations under Article 6 (5) 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,” and, “support the investigation and further development of technical solutions to overcome the particular challenges associated with

<sup>24</sup> Afghanistan, Angola, Belarus, Burundi, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Greece, Guyana, Latvia, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan, Turkey and Ukraine.

destroying PFM mines.”<sup>25</sup> To assess the status of the application of this portion of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, it is the Co-Chairs’ hope that those States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines will provide updates.

- **Opportunity for updates by States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for stockpile destruction. (See Document 2.7.)**

### **Matters of a thematic nature related to stockpile destruction**

The States Parties have highlighted challenges in a number of thematic areas concerning the fulfillment of Article 4 obligations. For instance:

At the June 2005 meeting of the Standing Committee, the Co-Chairs recognized technical issues associated with the destruction of artillery delivered anti-personnel mines (ADAM) which contain or may contain depleted uranium and that “steps should be taken to enhance understanding and identify difficulties associated with the destruction of ADAM.”<sup>26</sup>

Additionally, it was highlighted that the issue of multifunction fuses warrants further consideration to clarify the nature and scope of the problem associated with their destruction.”<sup>27</sup>

In addition, a priority that was noted in Zagreb for the period leading to the 7MSP was that “efforts should be made to raise awareness of the need to establish and implement stockpile destruction of mines belonging to armed non-State actors that have made a commitment to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines.”<sup>28</sup>

The Co-Chairs intend to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on such thematic matters.

- **Opportunity for an exchange of views on thematic matters concerning the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines.**

### **Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs**

**11:30 Meeting ends**

<sup>25</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #13 and #14.

<sup>26</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 28.

<sup>27</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 29.

<sup>28</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 30(v).

## **Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention**

### **11:30 Meeting reconvenes**

#### **Updates by Contact Group Coordinators**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that “all States Parties will (...) continue to utilize informal mechanisms such as the Contact Groups, which have emerged to meet specific needs.”<sup>29</sup> During the week of meetings of the Standing Committees, the Contact Groups undoubtedly will be extremely active and may be in a position to provide updates on their work.

- **Opportunity for updates to be provided by Contact Group Coordinators.**

#### **Article 3: Plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques** (continued)

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that “transparency and the open exchange of information have been essential pillars on which the Convention’s practices, procedures and tradition of partnership have been built,” and, that “the States Parties recognize that transparency and effective information exchange will be equally crucial to fulfilling their obligations during the period 2005-2009.”<sup>30</sup> To this end, the States Parties agreed to a number of actions, including that “all States Parties will (...) in situations where States Parties have retained mines in accordance with the exceptions in Article 3, provide information on the plans requiring the retention of mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques and report on the actual use of retained mines and the results of such use.”<sup>31</sup>

To assist States Parties in applying Action #54 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the States Parties at the 6MSP agreed to amend the Article 7 reporting format, thus creating a means for States Parties to share information in addition to what is minimally required on mines retained in accordance with Article 3. In addition, the Co-Chairs have distributed a series of questions to relevant States Parties to assist them in acting in accordance with Action #54. (Document 2.1.)

- **Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported mines retained for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share information on their plans requiring the retention of mines in accordance with Article 3, the actual use of these mines and the results of this use.** (See Document 2.1.)
- **Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported that they have not retained mines for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share their experiences.**

#### **Article 9: The development and adoption of legislative, administrative and other measures**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that “primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Convention rests with each State Party. Article 9 of the Convention accordingly requires each party to take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition

<sup>29</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #69.

<sup>30</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, paragraph 7.

<sup>31</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #54.

of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress prohibited activities by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction and control.”<sup>32</sup> To this end, it was agreed, inter alia, that the States Parties which have not yet done so will “develop and adopt legislative, administrative and other measures in accordance with Article 9 as soon as possible to fulfil their obligations under this Article thereby contributing to full compliance with the Convention report annually on progress as required by Article 7.”<sup>33</sup>

The *Zagreb Progress Report* notes that “while progress has been made by States Parties in fulfilling their Article 9 obligations, it remains a priority that the necessary appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures are taken by the 75 States Parties that have not yet done so.”<sup>34</sup> The ICRC will provide an overview of its views on the state of implementation of this aspect of the Convention.

- **Presentation by the ICRC on the status of implementation of Article 9.**
- **Opportunity for updates by those States Parties in the process of developing and adopting legislative, administrative and other measures in accordance with Article 9, and, if relevant, to make their needs known if assistance is required.**

#### **The practical implementation of the various other provisions of the Convention**

The *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that the States Parties will “exchange views and share their experiences in a cooperative and informal manner on the practical implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, including Articles 1, 2 and 3, to continue to promote effective and consistent application of these provisions.”<sup>35</sup>

- **Opportunity for updates on the practical implementation of other provisions of the Convention.**

#### **13:00 Break for lunch**

#### **15:00 The practical implementation of the various other provisions of the Convention (continued)**

- **Opportunity for updates on the practical implementation of other provisions of the Convention.**

#### **Preparations for the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties**

In keeping with past practice, the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention will serve as a forum for views to be shared with respect to various procedural matters concerning the next Meeting of the States Parties. These matters include a draft agenda, a draft programme, draft rules of procedure and draft cost estimates for the Meeting of the States Parties. (See Document 2.8 and Document 2.9.)

This agenda item will also feature brief presentations by Australia on suggestions for the approach to be taken with respect to the 7MSP and by Switzerland and the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs on organizational matters.

<sup>32</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, paragraph 8.

<sup>33</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #59.

<sup>34</sup> *Zagreb Progress Report*, paragraph 126(i).

<sup>35</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #55.

- **Opportunity for discussion on preparations for the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.** (See Document 2.8 and Document 2.9..)

### **Matters pertaining to the general operations of the Convention**

In keeping with past practice, the Standing Committee will provide an opportunity for updates on various matters concerning the general operations of the Convention, including updates on the activities of the Coordinating Committee (6MSP Presidency), the Implementation Support Unit (Director of the GICHD and Manager of the Implementation Support Unit), and, the Sponsorship Programme (United Kingdom).

With respect to the Implementation Support Unit and the Sponsorship Programme, the Co-Chairs wish to recall that in the *Nairobi Action Plan*, it was agreed that States Parties will “continue to provide on a voluntary basis, in accordance with their agreement with the GICHD, the necessary financial resources for the operation of the Implementation Support Unit”, and, “on a voluntary basis contribute to the Sponsorship Programme.”<sup>36</sup>

- **Opportunity for comments on the work of various implementation mechanisms and to make announcements of support to the Implementation Support Unit Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Programme.**

### **Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs**

## **Closing of the week of Standing Committee meetings**

**17:30 Remarks by the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining**

**18:00 Week of Standing Committee meetings ends**

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<sup>36</sup> *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #67 and #70.