

INITIAL IDEAS CONCERNING, AND SUGGESTED AGENDA AND PROGRAMME FOR, THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

President-Designate (Australia)

24 March 2006

Priorities for 7MSP

The Seventh Meeting of States Parties (7MSP) represents another important milestone in measuring States Parties' progress in implementing the Mine Ban Treaty. The meeting provides an opportunity to reflect on steps taken since the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties (6MSP) to apply the Nairobi Action Plan, as well as to discuss upcoming challenges, as we move towards critical deadlines and the Second Review Conference.

At the 7MSP, Australia would like to place an ever greater focus on the biggest challenges facing the Convention, namely implementing mine clearance obligations and providing assistance to victims. To this end, we propose to reorder the agenda and work program accordingly (see attached documents).

In planning thematic discussions on these two issues, Australia will work closely with Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the relevant Standing Committees, to follow-up and build on the work undertaken at the May Intersessionals. With regard to mine clearance, Australia will support efforts of mine affected and donor countries to ensure that mine clearance deadlines are met. On the question of victim assistance, we will support efforts to build comprehensive national plans in the twenty-four countries with the largest number of survivors. Australia encourages the active participation of survivors at the 7MSP.

As an outcome of the meeting, Australia will produce a short 'Geneva 2006 Progress Report', which will capture the progress made in implementation since the 6MSP.

Organisation of meeting

The amount of time actually used at the 6MSP demonstrates that it is possible for the 7MSP to stage an opening ceremony the morning of the first day of the meeting rather than the night before. We therefore plan to hold the opening ceremony on Monday 18 September, followed immediately with the official opening of the meeting. The opening ceremony would include a series of addresses by or on behalf of distinguished individuals.

A successful feature of the Zagreb 6MSP was the decreased amount of time used for general statements relative to previous MSPs. At the 7MSP, States Parties and observers will again be discouraged from delivering statements of a general nature. States Parties and observers wishing to exercise their right to speak during a general exchange of views should limit their statements to five minutes. Australia will also follow the example of the 6MSP and institute a rolling list of speakers for the entire conference.

We propose that we take advantage of the time allocated for the 7MSP to conduct informal and interactive discussions on key thematic issues during the week. A 3-hour time-block would be set aside for this purpose. This could be used to discuss questions raised in the May Intersessionals and pressing issues facing the Convention.

Geneva, 18-22 September 2006
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Official opening of the meeting
2. Election of the President
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure
5. Adoption of the budget
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers
7. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting
8. Organization of work
9. General exchange of views
10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
 - (a) Clearing mined areas
 - i. Updates on progress in implementing Article 5
 - ii. Discussion on key matters concerning the implementation of Article 5
 - (b) Assisting the victims
 - (c) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines
 - (d) Universalizing the Convention
 - (e) Other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims
 - i. Cooperation and assistance
 - ii. Transparency and the exchange of information
 - iii. Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance.
 - iv. Implementation Support
11. Informal discussions on important thematic questions
12. Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7
13. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5
14. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8
15. Date, duration and location of the next Meeting of the States Parties
16. Any other business
17. Consideration and adoption of the final document

18. Closure of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties

SEVENTH MEETING 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

24 March 2006

Geneva, 18-22 September 2006
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK¹

Monday 18 September

10:00 – 11:00

Opening ceremony

11:00 – 13:00

1. Official opening of the meeting
2. Election of the President
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure
5. Adoption of the budget
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers
7. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting
8. Organization of work
9. General exchange of views²

15:00 – 18:00

9. General exchange of views (continued)

¹ The timing of agenda items in this programme of work is only notional in that flexibility will be applied with respect to the precise timing of individual agenda items. As soon as a particular agenda item ends, the subsequent agenda item will start. The exception to this rule will be Agenda Item #11 which will begin at 15:00 on Thursday 21 September and end at 18:00 the same day.

² States Parties and observers are encouraged to refrain from making general statements but rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters indicated in agenda item 10. In addition, if they wish, delegations can distribute written statements rather than deliver oral statements.

Tuesday 19 September

10:00 – 13:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

- (a) Clearing mined areas
 - i. Updates on progress in implementing Article 5
 - ii. Consideration of key matters concerning the implementation of Article 5

15:00 – 18:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (a) Clearing mined areas
 - i. Updates on progress in implementing Article 5
 - ii. Consideration of key matters concerning the implementation of Article 5

Wednesday 20 September

10:00 – 13:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (b) Assisting the victims

15:00 – 18:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (b) Assisting the victims
- (c) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

Thursday 21 September

10:00 – 13:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (c) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines
- (d) Universalizing the Convention
- (e) Other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims
 - i. Cooperation and assistance
 - ii. Transparency and the exchange of information
 - iii. Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance.

15:00 – 18:00

11. Informal discussions on important thematic questions³

³ Subject to the thematic questions to be discussed during this informal session, there may be a need to move this discussion to another place in the programme to ensure a logical flow between related formal and informal thematic discussions.

Friday 22 September

10:00 – 13:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (continued)

- (e) Other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims
 - ii. Transparency and the exchange of information
 - iii. Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance.
 - iv. Implementation Support

12. Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7

13. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

14. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8

15:00 – 18:00

15. Date, duration and location of the next Meeting of the States Parties

16. Any other business

17. Consideration and adoption of the final document

18. Closure of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties