

UNOFFICIAL VERSION

**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**

22 November 2007

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**Eighth Meeting
Dead Sea, 18 – 22 November 2007**

**FINAL REPORT
EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES**

The Final Report of the Eighth 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 consists of two parts and five annexes as follows:

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PART I

ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE EIGHT MEETING

A. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction provides in Article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2, that: “The States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention, including:

- (a) The operation and status of this Convention;
- (b) Matters arising from the reports submitted under the provisions of this Convention;
- (c) International cooperation and assistance in accordance with Article 6;
- (d) The development of technologies to clear anti-personnel mines;
- (e) Submissions of States Parties under Article 8; and
- (f) Decisions relating to submissions of States parties as provided for in Article 5; and,

Meetings subsequent to the First Meeting of the States Parties “shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations annually until the first Review Conference”.

2. At the 29 November–3 December 2004 First Review Conference, the States Parties agreed to hold annually, until the Second Review Conference, a Meeting of the States Parties which will regularly take place in the second half of the year, as contained in paragraph 32 (a) of its Final Report (APLC/CONF/2004/5). At the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, held in Geneva from 18 to 22 September 2006, it was agreed to hold the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties in Jordan from 18 to 22 November 2007, as contained in paragraph 29 of the Final Report (APLC/MSP.7/2006/5).

3. To prepare for the Eighth Meeting, in keeping with past practice, at the April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention a provisional agenda, provisional programme of work, draft rules of procedure and draft cost estimates were presented. Based upon discussions at that meeting, it was the sense of the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention that these documents were generally acceptable to the States Parties to be put before the Eighth Meeting for adoption.

4. To seek views on matters of substance, the President-Designate convened an informal meeting in Geneva on 28 August 2007 to which all States Parties and interested organizations were invited to participate.

5. The opening of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties was preceded on 17 November 2007 by a ceremony at which a statement was delivered by Chief Chamberlain His Royal Highness Prince Raad Ben Zeid on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan. In

addition, statements were delivered by His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan in his capacity as Chair of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, landmine survivor Mr. Suleiman Ghnaimat, and, landmine survivor Ms. Song Kosal.

B. Organization of the Meeting

6. The Eighth Meeting of the States Parties was opened on 18 November 2007 by Her Excellency, Ambassador Caroline Millar of Australia, President of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. Ambassador Millar presided over the election of the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting elected by acclamation His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan as its President in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure.

7. At the opening session, a message was delivered by Mr. Sergio Duarte, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary General of the United Nations. In addition, messages were delivered by the following: Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium; Mr. Olivier Vodoz, Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Ms. Jody Williams, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize laureate; and, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

8. At its first plenary meeting on 18 November 2007, the Eighth Meeting adopted its agenda as contained in Annex I to this report. On the same occasion, the meeting adopted its rules of procedure as contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/5*, the estimated costs for convening the Eighth Meeting as contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/4*, and its programme of work as contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/2**.

9. Also at its first plenary meeting, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Chile, Estonia, Italy, Norway and Sudan were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Eighth Meeting.

10. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of Mr. Ayman Al-Amery, Director of International Relations and Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, as Secretary-General of the Meeting. The Meeting also took note of the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General of Mr. Tim Caughley, Director of the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, as Executive Secretary of the Meeting, and the appointment by the President of Mr. Kerry Brinkert, Manager of the Implementation Support Unit, as the President's Executive Coordinator.

C. Participation in the Meeting

11. The following 91 States Parties participated in the Meeting: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras,

Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

12. The following three (3) States that had acceded to the Convention, but for which the Convention had not yet entered into force, participated in the Meeting as observers, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Meeting: Iraq, Kuwait and Palau.

13. The following signatory that has not ratified the Convention participated in the Meeting as an observer, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Meeting: Poland.

14. The following 19 States not parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting as observers, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Meeting: Armenia, Bahrain, China, Egypt, Finland, Georgia, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, and Viet Nam.

15. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Rules of Procedure, the following international organizations and institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as observers: European Commission, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, League of Arab States (LAS), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization of American States (OAS), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

16. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure, the following other organizations attended the Meeting as observers: Anti Mine Association, Cleared Ground Demining, Cranfield University Resilience Centre, International Peace Research Institute (PRIO), International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF), James Madison University Mine Action Information Center (JMU), NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA), and Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD).

17. A list of all delegations and delegates to the Eighth Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/INF.

D. Work of the Meeting

18. The Eighth Meeting held eight plenary sessions from 18-22 November 2007 and one informal session on 20 November 2007. The first one and a half plenary sessions featured the general exchange of views under agenda item 10. Several States Parties, observer States and observer organizations made statements in the general exchange of views or otherwise made written statements of a general nature available.

19. At its first plenary session, the Meeting welcomed the presentation by the Minister of State of Palau of Palau's instrument of accession.

20. At its second through eighth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the general status and operation of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention's aims and in the application of the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009. In this regard, the Meeting warmly welcomed the Dead Sea Progress Report 2006-2007, as contained in Part II of this report, as an important means to support the application of the *Nairobi Action Plan* by measuring progress made during the period 22 September 2006 to 22 November 2007 and highlighting priority areas of work for the States Parties, the Co-Chairs and the Convention's President in the period between the Eighth and the Ninth Meetings of the States Parties.

21. In the course of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting considered a proposal to amend Forms B and G of the Article 7 reporting format, contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/L.2, and, a proposed template for assisting States Parties in requesting an extension under Article 5, contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/3*.

22. At its eighth plenary session, the Meeting noted the Director of the GICHD's report on the activities of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), contained in Annex IV to this report. States Parties expressed their appreciation to the GICHD for the manner in which the ISU is making a positive contribution in support of the States Parties' efforts to implement the Convention.

23. Also at its eighth plenary session, the States Parties again recognized the value and importance of the Coordinating Committee in the effective functioning and implementation of the Convention and for operating in an open and transparent manner. In addition, the Meeting again noted the work undertaken by interested States Parties through the Sponsorship Programme, which continues to ensure widespread representation at meetings of the Convention.

24. Also at its eighth plenary session, the Meeting considered matters pertaining to reporting under Article 7 of the Convention. All States Parties were encouraged to place a continued emphasis on ensuring reports are submitted as required by forwarding reports to the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

25. Also at its eighth plenary session, the Meeting considered the submission of requests under Article 5 of the Convention. The President notified the Meeting that he had not been informed that any state wished to make such a request at the Eighth Meeting. The Meeting took note of this. The President also recalled that those States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in 2009 which will need to request an extension have been encouraged to submit their requests in March 2008 for consideration at the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties.

26. Also at its eighth plenary session, the Meeting considered the submission of requests under Article 8 of the Convention. The President notified the Meeting that he had not been informed that any state wished to make such a request at the Eighth Meeting. The Meeting took note of this.

27. At its informal session, the Meeting discussed practical ways to overcoming challenges in implementing Article 5. This discussion highlighted the value of States Parties making use of the full range of emerging practical methods to more rapidly release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines. In addition, this discussion highlighted that ensuring a sustainable and adequate resource flow remains an important issue for many States Parties, and, that both States Parties implementing Article 5 and those in a position to provide assistance can take some practical steps to help mobilise and efficiently utilize resources.

E. Decisions and Recommendations

28. At its final plenary session, pursuant to consultations undertaken by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Meeting agreed to set the dates of the 2008 meetings of the Standing Committees from 2-6 June 2008 and identified the following States Parties as the Standing Committee Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs until the end of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties:

- (i) Mine Clearance, Mine-Risk Education and Mine-Action Technologies: Canada and Peru (Co-Chairs); Argentina and Australia (Co-Rapporteurs);
- (ii) Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration: Cambodia and New Zealand (Co-Chairs); Belgium and Thailand (Co-Rapporteurs);
- (iii) Stockpile Destruction: Lithuania and Serbia (Co-Chairs); Italy and Zambia (Co-Rapporteurs);
- (iv) General Status and Operation of the Convention: Germany and Kenya (Co-Chairs); Chile and Japan (Co-Rapporteurs).

29. Also at its final plenary session, with a view to facilitating reporting of stockpiled anti-personnel mines discovered and destroyed after Article 4 deadlines have passed, the Meeting adopted amendments to the Article 7 reporting format, as contained in Annex II.

30. Also at its final plenary session, the Meeting recalled that the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties agreed to work further on the voluntary template proposed as the basis to facilitate

preparation and assessment of extension requests with a view to its finalisation by the conclusion of the 2007 intersessional meetings so to enable its voluntary implementation until its formal adoption at the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties. In this context, the Meeting adopted the voluntary template for assisting States Parties in requesting an extension under Article 5, as contained in Annex III.

31. Also at its final plenary session, the Meeting agreed to designate His Excellency, Ambassador Jurg Streuli of Switzerland President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties and decided to hold the Ninth Meeting in Geneva the week of 24-28 November 2008.

F. Documentation

32. A list of documents of the Eighth Meeting is contained in Annex V to this report. These documents are available in all official languages through the United Nations Official Documents System (<http://documents.un.org>).

G. Adoption of the Final Report and conclusion of the Meeting

33. At its final plenary session, on 22 November 2007, the Meeting adopted its draft report, contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/CRP.1, as orally amended, which is being issued as document APLC/MSP.8/2007/6