



NINTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES
24-28 November 2008
Geneva, Switzerland

Guide to the Provisional Programme
(Revised 3 September 2008)¹

MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 11:00

Opening ceremony

An opening ceremony will feature the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the ICBL Youth Ambassador. Delegates are asked to be in their seats promptly by 10:00.

11:00 – 13:00

1. Official opening of the meeting.

The 9MSP will be officially opened by His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein, of Jordan, President of the Eighth Meeting of the State Parties (8MSP).

2. Election of the President.

The 8MSP agreed to designate Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland President of the 9MSP.

3. Brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

In keeping with tradition at Meetings of the State Parties (MSPs), brief messages will be delivered.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

At the 6 June 2008 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, a draft agenda was presented. The Co-Chairs concluded that this was acceptable to the States Parties for adoption at the 9MSP. (See document # APLC/MSP.9/2008/1, which is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at www.9msp.org).

¹ This document has been prepared by the President-Designate of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to assist the States Parties and observer delegations in preparing to participate in the 9MSP. It is recognized that this provisional programme is subject to the adoption by the States Parties and that timings for agenda items are only notional and subject to change.

5. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

At the 6 June 2008 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, draft rules of procedure were presented. The Co-Chairs concluded that these were acceptable to the States Parties for adoption at the 9MSP. (See document # APLC/MSP.9/2008/, which is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at www.9msp.org).*

6. Adoption of the budget.

At the 6 June 2008 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, draft cost estimates were presented. The Co-Chairs concluded that these were acceptable to the States Parties for adoption at the 9MSP. (See document # APLC/MSP.9/2008/, which is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at www.9msp.org).*

7. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers.

In keeping with tradition at MSPs, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees will be nominated to serve as Vice-Presidents of the 9MSP, namely: Canada, Cambodia, Germany, Kenya, Lithuania, New Zealand, Peru, and Serbia.

8. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting.

In keeping with tradition at MSPs, the host country has nominated a Secretary-General, namely, Mr. Rémy Friedman.

9. Organization of work.

At the 6 June 2008 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, a draft programme was presented. The Co-Chairs concluded that this was acceptable to the States Parties for adoption at the 9MSP. (See document # APLC/MSP.9/2008/2, which is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at www.9msp.org).

10. General exchange of views.

15:00 – 18:00

10. General exchange of views. (continued)

TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 13:00

11. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests.

The aim of this session is threefold: a) for requesting States Parties to present the key aspects of their extension requests, b) for the 8MSP President to present the analysis of requests² and,

² The 7MSP agreed that “The President and the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees, jointly prepare an analysis of the request indicating, inter alia: clarifications of facts sought and received from the requesting State; demining plans for the extension period; resource and assistance needs and gaps.”

c) for delegations to ask questions on the requests.

The actual formal consideration of the requests will take place under agenda Item 13 on Friday November 28, 2008.

15:00 – 18:00

11. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (continued).

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 13:00

11. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (continued).

15:00 – 18:00

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

In keeping with past practice, much of Agenda Item 12 will feature thematic discussions on the core aims of the Convention and on other matters essential for achieving the aims of the Convention. States Parties which are in the process of clearing mined areas, assisting the victims, destroying stockpiled mines or fulfilling other obligations may wish to seize the opportunity presented by these thematic discussions to provide further clarity or new information on the steps they are taking to fulfil their responsibilities.

In order to prepare updates on these matters, relevant States Parties may wish to provide additional information in accordance with questions posed by the Co-Chairs in advance of the June 2008 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 five to eight minutes

- (a) Universalizing the Convention

States Parties and others may wish to provide updates on efforts they have undertaken since the 8MSP to promote universal acceptance of the Convention.

States not parties may wish to provide updates on steps they are taken towards accession to the Convention.

- (b) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

Questions for consideration by States Parties that 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 that 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 States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling their obligations under Article 4 and that have missed their deadlines for destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

1. *What are the circumstances that have prevented your State from complying with its obligations on time?*
2. *What steps has your State taken to proceed in destroying all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed? How many mines have been destroyed and how many remain to be destroyed?*
3. *What is your State's plan, including time-lines and a prospective end date, for complying as soon as possible?*

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 13:00

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

- (c) Clearing mined areas

Questions for consideration by States Parties which are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 mine clearance obligations (other than States Parties that have submitted extension requests)

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. What new methodologies, if any, are being explored or have been employed in your State's effort to fulfill its Article 5 obligations before its deadline?

7. 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?

8. What, if any, are your priorities for external assistance to support your State's fulfillment of its Article 5 obligations?

15:00 – 18:00

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

(d) Assisting the victims

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

- 1. Can you provide specific examples of data collection mechanisms available that can provide comprehensive information on the numbers, location and needs of mine survivors to support the needs of programme planners and resource mobilisation?*
- 2. Can you provide specific examples of progress in improving access to trauma care services with well-trained personnel and well-equipped facilities in close proximity to those who may need to access these services?*
- 3. Can you provide specific examples of progress in improving access to rehabilitation services with well-trained personnel and well-equipped facilities to promote the physical well-being and the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities?*
- 4. Can you provide specific examples of progress in improving access to appropriate psychological and social support, including through peer support and other programmes, to assist mine victims and their families?*
- 5. Can you provide specific examples of progress in increasing access to programmes, training, micro-finance schemes and other activities that promote the economic inclusion of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities?*
- 6. Can you provide specific examples of how national legal and policy frameworks are effectively addressing the needs and fundamental human rights of mine victims and other persons with disabilities, including policies on accessibility to the built environment?*
- 7. Can you provide specific examples of how relevant ministries have been involved in the development of a plan of action and are effectively cooperating in implementing the plan and monitoring its implementation?*

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER

10:00 – 13:00

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

(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

With respect to the matter of implementation support, in keeping with tradition, eight States Parties will be proposed to serve as new Co-Rapporteurs between the end of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties and the Second Review Conference. As well on the basis of discussions with interested delegations the 9MSP President-Designate has proposed that the meetings of the Standing Committees be held the week of 25-29 May 2009.

13. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

The 9MSP differs from all other Meetings of the States Parties in that, for the first time, the States Parties need to consider requests submitted under Article 5.

The rules of procedure refer to the procedures contained in the Convention: "The Meeting of the States Parties or the Review Conference shall, taking into consideration the factors contained in (Article 5) paragraph 4, assess the request and decide by a majority of votes of States Parties present and voting whether to grant the request for an extension period." The rules of procedure go on to say the following:

- *For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives of States Parties present and voting" means representatives of States Parties present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.*
- *The Meeting of the States Parties shall normally vote by show of hands or by standing, but any representative may request a roll-call. The roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Meeting of the States Parties, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President.*

15:00 – 18:00

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

In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, States Parties may consider "matters arising from the reports submitted under the provisions of the Convention."

15. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8

In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, States Parties may consider "submissions of States Parties under Article 8".

16. Date, duration and location of the Second Review Conference, and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Second Review Conference.

The 9MSP needs to agree to a preparatory process for the Second Review Conference. At the June 2008 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention the following was proposed and deemed generally acceptable for presentation to the 9MSP for approval:

- *Two preparatory meetings: (a) one being half a day in length immediately after the meetings of the Standing Committees on the afternoon of 25 May 2009. This would be extremely cost effective as it would enable participation by sponsored delegates, and (b) a second two-day preparatory meeting on 3-4 September 2009.*
- *As was the case in the lead-up to the First Review Conference, the President-Designate of the Second Review Conference could convene additional informal meetings if deemed necessary.*

The 9MSP will designate a President for the Second Review Conference and decide on the dates, duration and location of the Second Review Conference. In keeping with the decisions of the First Review Conference and the provisions of Article 12 of the Convention, a five-day meeting on 30 November to 4 December 2009 has been proposed.

17. Any other business
18. Consideration and adoption of the final document
19. Closure of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties