

THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

Scenario:

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's June 2015 intersessional meetings will feature a thematic discussion on fostering partnerships. The purpose is to gain greater understanding and clarity to support the Maputo Review Conference's ambition that States Parties enter into "partnerships for completion"* and that the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance is mandated to "facilitate the fostering of partnerships."†

The thematic discussion will be organized as follows:

- Brief introduction of the thematic discussion by the Chair of the Committee.
Panel 1: The Chair of the Committee will call upon a moderator to facilitate a conversation involving a donor State Party, a State Party that has received assistance in the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention, a demining operator and a UN agency. This first panel will focus attention on key elements of traditional partnerships with the following questions:
 1. What are partnerships?
 2. What are the expectations towards partners?
 3. How do partnerships work?
 4. How can partnerships be enhanced?
- After the panel responds to an initial line of questions, all delegations will be invited to participate in an exchange of view.
- **Panel 2:** The Committee Chair will introduce a second panel featuring representatives of two States Parties that will illustrate their bilateral cooperation as a case that helps exhibit the range of partnerships. After this joint presentation, the floor will be open to delegations to raise questions and comments.
- **Panel 3:** A third panel will then focus attention on the role and potential of the private sector in providing support for demining. This too will be a moderated conversation (i.e., short answers to pointed questions) and it will feature representatives of entities and organizations that have had experience in private sector partnerships. All delegations will again be invited to participate in the ensuing discussion.
- Committee Members at the end of the discussion will share some observations. Following the meeting, the Committee will then draw from the discussion to prepare conclusions to present to the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

Discussion questions:

In order to make this discussion as results-oriented as possible, the Committee invites all delegations to prepare to engage on the basis of the questions listed below.

1. What are partnerships?
 - How exactly do we define successful partnerships when it comes to the implementation of the Convention? What amounts to a "partnership for completion"?

2. How do partnerships work?
 - What do partners expect of one another in order to ensure that partnerships are productive? In what ways can partners interact with one another (e.g., regular coordination, stakeholders' meetings, etc.) to ensure that partnerships flourish?
3. How can partnerships be enhanced?
 - How can mine-affected States Parties enhance their ability to attract partners to support their Convention goals?
 - The States Parties have formally observed and defined the importance of national ownership in facilitating cooperation.[‡] How is it implemented?
 - How can partners more effectively exchange information, for example, to ensure clarity regarding remaining challenges and requests for assistance?
 - What role can the *platform for partnerships* play?[§]
4. What is the complete range of partnerships?
 - What are successful examples of donor-State / affected-State partnerships, as well as other forms of partnerships such as triangular cooperation, south-south cooperation, public-private relationships, et cetera?
 - What can we learn from successful partnerships that can be applied to realise the ambition of the Maputo Review Conference?

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Endnotes:

* Action 21 of the Maputo Action Plan states that “States Parties in a position to provide assistance and those seeking to receive assistance, where relevant and to the extent possible, will enter into partnerships for completion, with partners specifying their responsibilities to each other, articulating age- and gender-sensitive time-bound objectives and targets, making financial or other commitments, if possible on a multi-year basis, and engaging regularly in a dialogue on progress and challenges in meeting goals.”

† At the Maputo Review Conference, it was agreed that the Committee is mandated to “facilitate the fostering of partnerships between States Parties seeking to receive assistance and those in a position to provide such assistance.”

‡ Part II of the Final Report of the 2009 Second Review Conference recorded the following: “The States Parties have come to recognise that strong national ownership is essential for ensuring that cooperation can flourish. Mine-affected States Parties themselves have remarked that national ownership in the clearance of anti-personnel mines and other explosive hazards implies, inter alia, the following five components: (i) high level interest and leadership in fulfilling mine clearance obligations, (ii) a national authority empowered and provided with the human, financial and material capacity to carry out its responsibilities, (iii) a clear understanding of the size, location and quality of the Article 5 implementation challenge or a commitment to promptly acquire such an understanding, (iv) a realistic but not unambitious plan to complete implementation of Article 5 as soon as possible and, (v) a regular significant national financial commitment to the State’s own humanitarian demining programme. It has been noted that, while the existence of these components will not guarantee that resources will flow in response to needs, demonstrating national ownership makes it significantly more likely that cooperation will flourish between those with needs and those in a position to provide assistance.”

§ Action 21 of the Maputo Action Plan states that “all States Parties will contribute, as they deem useful, to the information exchange tool ‘Platform for Partnerships’ and will provide new or updated information on their needs for assistance or on assistance which they are in a position to offer, when feasible, with a view to further enhancing partnerships and to supporting the full implementation of the Convention.”