

Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022

Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

Colombia (Chair), Germany, Japan and Sudan

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee first met on 16 December 2020 to discuss its work plan in 2020.
2. On 3 March 2021, the Committee worked with the Coordinating Committee to develop a checklist of information to provide in the Article 7 reports of the States Parties.
3. On 16 March 2021, the Committee circulated a follow up letter to all States Parties concerning the Committee's priorities for the year and highlighting the relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) including:
 - a. The Individualised Approach and how States Parties could take advantage of this platform;
 - b. National Mine Action Platforms and a sample model; and
 - c. Methods that States Parties could use to strengthen information exchange.
4. On 18 March 2021, the Committee together with the President and the other Committees of the Convention participated in a workshop encouraging adherence of States Parties to their obligation to submit Article 7 reports by 30 April 2021 and encouraging States Parties to include detailed quantitative and qualitative information on implementation of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan in their Article 7 reports. During the meeting, States Parties were also encouraged to ensure inclusion of information on their efforts to ensure consideration of gender and the diverse needs of mine affected communities into their implementation efforts.
5. On 9 June 2021, the Committee held three separate informal meetings with donor countries, mine affected countries and organisations to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in implementing of the commitments of the States Parties and support in this regard. A total of eight donor countries, six organisations and four mine-affected States participated in the dialogue.
6. On 17 June 2021, and in the lead up to this meeting, the Committee supported Mauritania in the hosting of an individualised approach meeting – *Mine Action in Mauritania: Status and Challenges in Implementation*. Due to continued restrictions the meeting was held in a virtual format. The meeting offered the opportunity for Mauritania to share the status and challenges of its mine action programme and included participation of 21 States and seven organisations.
7. In the lead up to the Intersessional Meetings, the Committee worked on the development of preliminary observations based on information submitted by the States Parties in their Article 7 reports. The Committee submitted these preliminary observations to the Intersessional Meetings on 22 June 2021.¹
8. In preparation for the Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance organised a panel entitled ***Mobilising Resources Towards a Mine-Free World***. The objective of the panel was to explore the relevant cooperation and assistance actions of the OAP to reflect on how they interact with each other to provide guidance to States Parties in mobilizing

¹ <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/intersessional-meetings/june-2021/background-documents/>

resources to fulfil their commitments as soon as possible. The Panel also looked at the results of discussions between the Committee and stakeholders to explore how to integrate best practices to ensure that States Parties successfully achieve their 2025 ambition.²

9. During the year, the Committee worked with the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and a company (e-durable) to develop an online reporting tool with financial support provided by Canada. The objective was to deliver a tool which can be used by States Parties to submit their reports online by the 30 April 2022 deadline. Awareness of the tool will be raised during the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) and in the lead up to 2022.
10. Additionally, during the year and in the lead up to the 19MSP, the Committee continues to support the Presidency in the establishment of the Cooperation Fund to support the exchange of best practices between States Parties to the Convention.

II. Priorities of the Committee

11. The Committee continues to see the Individualised Approach (IA) as a critical element of cooperation and assistance and in collaboration with other Committees of the Convention will continue to encourage States Parties to take advantage of this platform to share their challenges in achieving their commitments related to Article 5 and/or victim assistance as well as any other implementation challenge.
12. Notwithstanding the importance of the IA, it cannot stand alone and needs to be complemented by a robust conversation at the national level. In this regard, the Committee will continue promoting the establishment of national mine action platforms. In this regard, the Committee will seek to support specific States Parties that wish to establish such platforms to assist their efforts in accomplishing this.
13. The Committee continues to see transparency and accurate reporting as a key element of stimulating cooperation and assistance. In this regard, the Committee will continue working on the online tool to ensure it is ready for use by the 2022 reporting period. The Committee will promote its voluntary use.
14. The Committee will continue its work on strengthening the Cooperation Fund to support the exchange of best practices between States Parties to the Convention available to States Parties that wish to take advantage of the funding and to those States Parties that would like to provide financial support to the fund.
15. Furthermore, with support of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit, the Committee will continue to seek opportunities to strengthen cooperation and assistance in support of the fulfilment by mine affected States Parties of the Article 5 and victim assistance commitments through activities in Geneva as well as regional and national activities.
16. The Committee will also continue supporting States Parties in ensuring that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation, including in the provision of cooperation and assistance.
17. The Committee will also take advantage of the European Union Council Decision support to ensure the matters related to Cooperation and Assistance are included in national and regional dialogues on mine clearance and victim assistance.

² <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/intersessional-meetings/june-2021/summary-and-statements/>