

Activities and Priorities for Implementation for 2021-2022

President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties

The Netherlands

I. Activities of the President

1. The President chaired eight meetings of the Coordinating Committee over the course of December 2020 – October 2021, including an initial Coordinating Committee retreat held on 20 January 2021. Due to ongoing restrictions, the meetings were held in a virtual format.
2. The President chaired four meetings of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance and further coordinated the work of the Committee through email communication. The activities and priorities for implementation of the Committee are contained in the document of the Committee submitted to the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP).
3. On 22-24 June 2021, the President chaired the Intersessional Meetings. In preparations for the Intersessional Meetings, the President promoted coordination among the different Committees of the Convention. Due to the continued restrictions caused by the ongoing pandemic, the meetings were held in a virtual format.
4. The President coordinated preparations for the 19MSP to be held in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 15-19 November 2021. In line with current restrictions, the 19MSP will be held in a hybrid format.
5. The President coordinated with the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (Sudan) the submission of the resolution on Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction to the United Nations General Assembly First Committee on 14 October 2021.
6. On 18 March 2021, the President, in his capacity of President and Chair of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance sent letters to States Parties in the process of implementing their Article 4 obligations to encourage reporting in line with the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan (OAP). Likewise, the President sent letters to States Parties that retain mines for permitted purposes under Article 3 of the Convention to report on the status of mines retained and their efforts to ensure implementation of the relevant commitments under the OAP. The President subsequently drafted preliminary observations on the status of implementation of Article 4 and Article 3.¹
7. On 18 March 2021, the President held, together with the members of the Coordination Committee, an online workshop with States Parties to raise awareness of the importance of exchanging information on implementation of the Convention as called for under Article 7 and the OAP.
8. Ahead of the 19MSP, the President sent a letter to all States Parties retaining mines under Article 3 which have not submitted an Article 7 transparency report in more than two years. To further raise awareness of alternatives to the use of live anti-personnel mines, the President arranged an

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

exhibit for the 19MSP which will demonstrate 3D printed mines which could be used for training purposes in the place of live anti-personnel mines.

9. On 6 May 2021, the President together with the Committee on Cooperative Compliance held an online workshop together with New Zealand and the ICRC to create awareness of some of the tools available for the implementation of Article 9.
10. In line with the President's mandate to promote implementation and universalization of the Convention and its norms, including in relevant multilateral and regional fora, as well as at the national level, the President carried out the following efforts:
 - a. On 22 February 2021, in his address to the Conference on Disarmament, the Netherlands' Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Stef Blok, called on States not party to join the Convention;
 - b. The President and his team met with several representatives of States not party including during bilateral meetings with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lebanon, Libya, and the United States;
 - c. The President introduced a new permanent agenda item on Universalization within the Coordinating Committee;
 - d. The President sent a letter to all Permanent Representatives of all States not party in Geneva encouraging them to actively participate in the Intersessional Meetings as well as in the 19MSP;
 - e. The President briefed the participants of the UNODA-UNIDIR Disarmament Orientation Course, the Mine Action Fellows and the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament on the Convention.
11. In line with the President's mandate to mobilize sufficient resources to fund the operations of the Implementation Support Unit, on 23 February 2021, the President chaired the *Sixth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*.²
12. In accordance with the President's mandate to take the lead on matters related to the United Nations assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention, the President used the opportunity of the Pledging Conference and the 17 September 2021 informal meeting for the 19MSP to encourage States Parties to pay their assessed contributions as soon as possible to ensure that planning for the 19MSP could go on uninhibited. The President also sent communications concerning the status of contributions and ensured that matters concerning assessed contributions remained on the agenda of the Coordinating Committee.
13. In accordance with the President's mandate to propose a set of new officeholders for agreement by the forthcoming Meeting of the States Parties, the President sent a communication on 19 April 2021 to invite States Parties to express interest. On 27 September 2021, the President put forward to the States Parties a proposal which, considering expressions of interests from States Parties, was balanced regionally as well as between States Parties in the process of implementing key obligations of the Convention, those in a position to provide financial or other assistance, and other States Parties.

² <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/pledging-conferences/sixth-pledging-conference/>

II. Priorities for implementation

14. With the global pandemic and related restrictions subsiding, opportunities are presenting themselves to increase universalization activities by the President and Special Envoys as well as all States Parties. Prioritization should be given to strengthening the coordinated approach between States Parties and partners to make progress in Universalization ahead of the Fifth Review Conference.
15. Priority needs to be given to increase collaboration with regional and international organizations to further promote universalization at a regional level, in collaboration with States Parties in the region.
16. Concerning States Parties with Article 4 obligations, priority needs to be given to ensure that the hurdles in coordination and cooperation can be overcome by States with Article 4 missed deadlines and a clear timeline for completion be presented as soon as possible and no later than the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties.
17. Concerning Article 3, several States Parties retaining mines have not submitted their Article 7 reports in one or more years. Priority should be given to ensure that these States Parties submit their Article 7 report with updated information on the status of retained mines.
18. In addition to the above, several States Parties that retain anti-personnel mines have reported the same amount of mines year after year. Priority should be given to ensuring that states annually review their retained mines and ensure that they do not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes. Priority should also be given to continuing efforts, including those of past presidencies, to raise awareness of alternatives to the use of live anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes.
19. To ensure the successful deliberations of the Convention, priority needs to be given to ensuring the payment of assessed contributions in a timely manner to ensure UN support to the Meetings of the States Parties in accordance with Article 14.
20. Finally the Implementations Support Unit is an integral part of the Convention's machinery and it is important to facilitate their work. In this regard, priority should be given to ensuring that as many States Parties as possible contribute to its operation. Additionally, as we return to in-person meetings at the United Nations in Geneva, priority should be given to ensuring that the President and the office holders of the Convention receive unhindered support from the ISU, including by facilitating access by ISU staff to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).