

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

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Item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

Clearing mined areas and mine risk education and reduction:

Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of
the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023

Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Belgium (Chair), France, Iraq and Sri Lanka*

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee first met on 13 January 2022 to discuss its work plan towards the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP).
2. On 21 December 2021, the Committee distributed communications to the following States Parties:
 - (a) Eight States Parties – Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand and Yemen - with Article 5 deadlines in 2023 that were obliged to submit a request for extension by 31 March 2022 to recall to them the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties;
 - (b) Five States Parties – Cambodia, Chad, Croatia, Serbia and South Sudan - that were due to submit updated work plans in 2022 and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by the States Parties on their requests for extension;
 - (c) Two States Parties – Ethiopia and Niger - that were due to submit updated work plans in 2021 in accordance with decisions taken by the States Parties on their requests for extension.
3. Over the course of February to May 2022, the Committee, together with the President and the other three Convention's Committees, participated in 25 bilateral meetings with the following States Parties to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing their Article 5 commitments and respective obligations under thematic areas of the Convention : Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Croatia, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe. This was the first time that the President and Committees hosted joint bilateral meetings in support of the President's efforts to promote coordination amongst all structures established by the States Parties.
4. On 10 March 2022, the Committee, together with the President and the other three Committees of the Convention, participated in a workshop reminding States Parties of the

* This document is submitted after the deadline owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



importance of adherence with the 30 April deadline to submit annual Article 7 Reports and encouraging States Parties to include detailed quantitative and qualitative information on implementation of their Article 5 commitments in line with the Guide to Reporting and the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP). The workshop also encouraged States Parties to increase reporting on the methodologies employed in land release and mine risk education and risk reduction activities and on how these methodologies consider gender and diversity.

5. On 20 May 2022, the Committee convened a meeting with previous Chairs and members of the Article 5 Committee to receive feedback on the Article 5 Extension Request process and any challenges associated with the process. The Committee also invited the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) to offer its feedback and to provide clarity concerning the views they expressed at the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) in relation to the extension request process established by the States Parties.

6. During the first half of the year, the Committee worked with the Presidency and the Committee on Cooperative Compliance to engage Eritrea which is currently in non-compliance with the Convention. On 6 April 2022, on behalf of the President and the Convention's Committees, one of the Convention's Special Envoy, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, together with the Implementation Support Unit, met with His Excellency Amanuel Giorgio, Chargé d' affaires of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations in New York to discuss the situation of non-compliance. During the meeting, the Special Envoy and the Implementation Support Unit recalled the decision of the 19MSP and highlighted the support available to Eritrea to overcome the current impasse.

7. On 23 May 2022, the Committee met with the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations in Geneva to discuss matters related to the submission of Afghanistan's request for extension and to provide support to the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations in Geneva.

8. On 23 June 2022, the Committee met with Argentina to discuss matters associated with their request for extension.

9. During the Intersessional Meetings, the Committee, together with the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, organised a panel discussion entitled Making Every Effort Count: Towards a Successful 2025 in which the concept of "All Reasonable Effort", developed within the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) framework, and its application within the framework of the Convention was introduced. Discussions centered around how mine-affected States Parties can best ensure that key elements to support the effective and efficient implementation of Article 5 are in place.

10. From 4 to 6 July 2022, the Chair of the Committee travelled to Thailand to meet with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, the national mine action authorities and the Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC) to discuss progress in addressing its remaining mined areas. During the visit, the Chair of the Committee visited the Sa Kaeo border area with Cambodia and was provided with a detailed overview of Thailand's remaining challenge and its efforts to address it.

11. The Committee carried out efforts to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Article 5 extension request process as established by the States Parties. In this regard:

(a) Following receipt of extension requests from Argentina (25 March 2022), Ecuador (31 March 2022), Guinea-Bissau (22 April 2022), Serbia (18 March 2022), Sudan (1 April 2022), Thailand (31 March 2022) and Yemen (29 March 2022), the Committee reached out to expert organisations to request input on these requests in accordance with the process established by the States Parties;

(b) On 1 May 2022, the Committee sent a letter to all States Parties to inform them of the receipt of requests for extension submitted;

(c) With the expert input received from ICBL, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the HALO Trust and the Mine Action Review, the Committee entered in a cooperative dialogue with the requesting States Parties through bilateral meetings and through a communication of 15 June 2022 requesting additional information and clarification on the information provided in the request;

(d) Following the receipt of additional information/revised requests from requesting States Parties, the Committee finalized their analysis of the requests submitted by States Parties.

12. 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. The Committee presented preliminary observations on the following States Parties that had submitted Article 7 reports ahead of the Intersessional Meetings: Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe.¹ The methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations was based on the Committee's mandate to review relevant information on Article 5 implementation and takes into consideration the Committee's mandate to review relevant information provided by the States Parties on implementation of commitments contained in the OAP, including considerations for gender and the diverse needs of affected communities.

13. The Committee further worked on supporting States Parties in their preparations for the Intersessional Meetings, including through providing guidance on presentations and templates to assist in presenting extension requests.

14. Ahead of next year's Article 5 deadline, the Committee sent a communication to:

(a) One State Party – Ukraine - with an Article 5 deadline in 2023 which is obliged to submit a request for extension by 31 March 2023 to recall the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties and offer any assistance in this regard;

(b) 11 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Tajikistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Türkiye- that are due to submit updated work plans in 2023 in accordance with previously granted extension requests.

15. The Committee further worked with the President to ensure communications were sent out to States Parties that have not reported on progress in implementation of Article 5, to rectify this situation, where possible, ahead of the 20MSP.

II. Priorities for implementation

16. The Committee welcomes the continued cooperative interaction with States Parties regarding the implementation of Article 5 commitments throughout the year, through exchanges of letters and bilateral meetings. The Committee is committed to prioritise this cooperative dialogue in 2023 to ensure that all States Parties with Article 5 obligations submit high quality Article 7 Reports.

17. The Committee noted with great concern that, as of 1 September 2022, Eritrea has not acted on the call made by the 19MSP for Eritrea to engage in a cooperative dialogue without delay with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and submit a request for extension no later than 31 March 2022 for consideration by the 20MSP in accordance with the process established by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. Despite the efforts of the Committee, past and present Presidents of the Convention, the ISU and one of the Convention's Special Envoy, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, as of 1 September 2022, Eritrea has not submitted a request for extension. The Committee on Article 5 Implementation will continue supporting efforts by the President and Eritrea to overcome the current impasse.

18. Concerning the Committee's mandate to prepare and submit to the States Parties in advance of Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences an analysis of each request for an Article 5 extended deadline, the Committee will continue to prioritize its work to support States Parties in adhering to the process established by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties and the recommendations of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, in order to ensure that the collaborative approach envisaged by the process can take place resulting in the continued submission of high-quality extension requests. The Committee calls on all

¹ <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/intersessional-meetings/2022-im/documents/>.

States Parties submitting request for consideration by the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties to submit their request by no later than 31 March 2023.

19. The Committee will prioritise follow-up on the decisions of Meeting of the States Parties/Review Conferences on request for extension including providing support to States Parties due to submit updated work plans in 2023. The Committee will also pay particular attention to States Parties with outstanding commitments stemming from decisions of Meetings of the States Parties/Review Conferences on requests for extension.

20. Taking advantage of the low number of requests to be submitted in 2023, the Committee will begin preparations in support of States Parties which may need to submit extension requests in 2024 by engaging with the national authorities and those organisations supporting their efforts to ensure that high quality requests are submitted by 31 March 2024.

21. The Committee will continue its work with States Parties to ensure that their Article 7 reports and extension requests continue to reflect the commitments made at the Fourth Review Conference with the adoption of the OAP. In this regard, the Committee will continue to support States Parties that have not submitted Article 7 Reports in 2022 to do so as soon as possible.

22. The Committee will also aim to prioritise discussions with States Parties that are reported to be contaminated by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to continue building awareness of the need to address this contamination within the framework of the Convention.

23. The Committee will also continue making use of the European Union Council Decision in support of the implementation of the survey and clearance related aspects of the OAP, including by proposing national and regional dialogues for implementation.
