
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 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

Activities and Priorities for Implementation for 2022-2023

Submitted by the President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (Colombia)*

I. Activities of the President

1. The President chaired eight meetings of the Coordinating Committee over the course of December 2021 – November 2022, including an initial meeting of the Coordinating Committee on 9 December 2021 and retreat held on 21 January 2022. Due to ongoing restrictions, the retreat was 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. The activities and priorities for implementation of the Committee are contained in the document of the Committee submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP).
3. On 10 March 2022 the President and thematic Committees of the Convention hosted a workshop to recall to States Parties the importance of adherence to the deadline (30 April) to submit annual Article 7 Reports and to encourage 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).
4. On 1 April 2022, the President sent a communication to Greece concerning their stockpile destruction obligations under Article 4. On 10 June 2022, the President held a follow-up meeting with the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations to discuss further this matter and encourage their active participation during the Intersessional Meetings and encourage their continued communication with the States Parties at the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) in line with the OAP.
5. On 5 April 2022, the President disseminated a communication condemning the use of mines by Russia in Ukraine.
6. On 13 April 2022, 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 encourage reporting in line with the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan (OAP). The President subsequently drafted preliminary observations on the status of implementation of Article 4 and Article 3.
7. The President coordinated with the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (the Netherlands) and the President Designate of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (Germany) the submission of the resolution on

* This document is submitted late due to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



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.

8. On 15 June 2022, the President met with Ukraine to recall to Ukraine the support on of the States Parties and the machinery of the Convention to its implementation efforts and to discuss matters related to Ukraine's implementation of its Article 5 and Article 4 commitments.

9. On 20-22 June 2022, the President chaired the Intersessional Meetings. In preparations for the Intersessional Meetings, the President promoted coordination among the different Committees of the Convention. The President drafted preliminary observations on the status of implementation of Article 4 and Article 3.¹

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) The President and his team met and exchanged communications with several representatives of States not party including during bilateral meetings with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lao PDR, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal and Viet Nam. This included meetings with the Special Envoy in New York and bilateral meetings in Geneva;

(b) The President continued adding an agenda item on Universalization within the Coordinating Committee;

(c) The President sent a letter to all Permanent Representatives of all States not party in Geneva encouraging them to actively participate in the 20MSP;

(d) The President began preparations to take advantage of the 20MSP to usher Universalization efforts forward.

11. In line with the President's mandate to mobilize sufficient resources to fund the operations of the Implementation Support Unit, on 1 March 2022, the President chaired the *Seventh Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*.²

12. On 25 July 2022 the President disseminated a communication condemning the alleged use of anti-personnel mines by Myanmar.

13. 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 Informal Meetings for the 20MSP to encourage States Parties to pay their assessed contributions as soon as possible to ensure that planning for the 20MSP 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.

14. In addition, on 19 May 2022, the President invited all States Parties to an informal discussion on the financial predictability and sustainability of United Nations assessed contributions. In particular, the President consulted delegations on the proposal regarding a decision on financial matters which was put forth at the 19MSP and in view of submitting a proposal for adoption at the 20MSP. During the 20-22 June 2022 Intersessional Meetings, the President presented to the States Parties a draft decision concerning assessed contributions, incorporating feedback received during informal consultations held on 19 May 2022. On 15 September 2022, the President wrote to all States Parties to indicate that no further comments had been received on the proposed decision.

15. 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 29 April 2022 to invite States Parties to express interest. As of 25 September 2022, the President is finalizing the proposal to put forward to the States Parties

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

² <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/pledging-conferences/7pc/>

which, considering expressions of interests from States Parties, aims to be 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.

16. The President coordinated preparations for the 20MSP to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 21-25 November 2022. An informal meeting took place as part of the 20MSP preparations on 19 September 2022. Given the improved situation concerning COVID-19 the 20MSP will be held in person.

II. Priorities for implementation

17. With the global pandemic and related restrictions subsiding in areas of interest for universalization, opportunities are presenting themselves to increase activities related to universalization. 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. This includes collaborating with regional and international organizations in 2023 to make a coordinating push for universalization.

18. As of 1 September 2022, Eritrea has not responded to 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. Efforts to engage Eritrea will continue being a priority.

19. 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 clear timeline for completion be presented and implemented to ensure the destruction of remaining stockpiled mines as soon as possible.

20. Concerning Article 3, several States Parties retaining mines have not submitted their Article 7 reports in one or more years or have reported retaining the same amount of mines year after year. Priority should be given to ensuring the submission of Article 7 reports with updated information on the status of retained mines and ensure 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.