

## **Article 7**

Article 7 provides a clear list of information that must be submitted in your annual reports.

As we know States Parties must submit an initial report no later than 180 days after entry into force and must update the information annually by submitting a report by 30 April.

Since entry into force of the treaty the States Parties have developed a number of tools for reporting.

At the First and second Meeting of States Parties the States Parties agreed on a reporting template that is still used in some variation by many today.

While many parts of the template are still useful today, overall the States Parties have recognized that the early templates have outlived their utility.

This is in part because as the years have gone by we, as a Convention Community, have understood that to really know how close or far we are from the goal of the States Parties of ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, we need to know more or we need the same information presented in a different manner.

To give you an example of how we have outlived earlier templates, earlier templates make no reference to square meters or to disaggregated information which we know is crucial to understanding the problem.

Likewise, every action plan from The Nairobi action plan to the Cartagena action plan, to the Maputo Action Plan and now the Oslo Action Plan have all required us to share, again, information in a different manner.

As you heard from the Committees with the Oslo Action Plan which contains 80 separate indicators.

Additionally, there has been an effort to offer the States Parties more flexibility in terms of reporting. This is an important point given that to be able to make the best use of transparency we need flexibility to provide the necessarily qualitative and quantities information to paint an accurate picture of where we are in implementation of our commitments, including those related to cooperation and assistance.

### **Guide to reporting**

In this regard in 2014 the States Parties adopted the guide to reporting.

The guide to reporting brings together 20 years of reporting commitments together to provide a comprehensive guide to states parties on what to report and how to report on the following matters in line with Article 7 and the subsequent understandings of the States Parties since the entry into force of the Convention.

Practically it also includes a sample guide that if followed, would provide everyone with the highest level of clarity on the implementation of the Convention.

For example looking at Article 5 and the Oslo Action Plan

Progress, remaining challenge, milestones, mined areas...

Now there may be challenges with a state party providing this perhaps because of issues with the database or with the collection of information. These are real challenges and it's important that they are expressed.

In this way we can support the linking of States Parties to Expert organizations that may be able to help, for example by supporting you in developing an information management NMAS or any other such relevant support.

So quantitative and qualitative information is crucial.

In terms of VA reporting, the Committee has through the years provided support and advice to those responsible to drafting the Article 7 report in reporting and in facilitating reporting as you heard from the Committee. Victim Assistance is an example where qualitative information is crucial. None the less, There are table in the guide that will be helpful for your efforts to report in this regard, as well as on every other matter.

One of the issue we see is that many States Parties with no obligation are often driving down the reporting rates. As mentioned earlier by the President, reporting is an obligation for all States .

To support States with no obligations, the States Parties have also

In addition to the Guide to Reporting, there has been an effort to simplify the reporting. For example by providing introducing a cover page to the report.

Also, the Guide you will find draft text within the Guide to Reporting to submit a note verbal when really there is nothing at all to report.

This year the President and the Coordinating Committee distributed a letter to each State Party, highlighting some questions which, if answered in your report will provide the necessary information to track the indicators

Last year the 18MSP President began technical updates to the Guide to Reporting to bring it in line with the decision of the Fourth Review Conference. These should be finalized presented to you over the course of this year.

Finally, my team and I are happy to support your efforts. We have the capacity to hold virtual seminars for anyone in your capitals that needs a more one on one advice and training and are more than happy to do so.

- My colleague Sophie Delfolie is the contact point for overall reporting and reporting on Article 5 for francophone States.
- My Colleague Gregory Cathcart, is the contact point for States with Article 5 reporting
- My Colleague Firoz Alizada, his expertise in this regard relates to reporting on VA

And we are all available through [isu@apminebanconvention.org](mailto:isu@apminebanconvention.org).