



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings

Making every effort count – Applying reasonable effort and cooperation and Assistance towards a successful 2025

**Tuesday - 21 June 2022
11:00 – 13:00**

Concept Note

Background

Article 5 of the Convention requires, amongst others, that a State Party, “make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced” and “ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party”. Since the entry into force States Parties have made substantial progress in this the implementation of Article 5. In spite of the progress made, several States Parties have reported circumstances which have impeded the implementation of their obligations by their respective deadlines and have submitted requests for extension in accordance with Article 5.3 and the process established by the States Parties.

At the Third Review Conference the States Parties committed to intensifying their efforts to complete the Convention’s respective time-bound obligations, to the fullest extent possible by 2025. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties recommitted to meeting this goal and adopted the Oslo Action Plan (OAP), containing commitments and best practices in implementation, as an essential tool towards the fulfilment of this ambition. Among these best practices is, for example, ensuring that States Parties keep National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), adapt them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.

To provide guidance to States in efficiently and effectively addressing contamination by explosive ordnance the concept of “All Reasonable Effort (ARE)” was established within the framework of the IMAS in a *Technical Note*. The concept of ARE reemphasizes the need for efforts to be guided by an evidence-based approach seeks to support State’s to ensure an evidence-based process to ensure that an area, a defined portion of the country, and eventually the country, no longer contains known contamination. As highlighted in the Technical Note, for States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, employing the concept of ARE does not modify in any way the obligations under the Convention but provides technical guidance that may assist States in the application of those obligations. ARE encompasses key concepts and elements of relevant IMAS for consideration by States Parties in developing and reviewing their NMAS to achieve ARE.

While the application of best practices is critical to the effective and efficient implementation of the mine clearance obligations of the Convention, States Parties have also acknowledged the key role of enhanced cooperation and assistance to support implementation as soon as possible. States Parties have long acknowledged that this includes entering into partnerships for completion including by the establishment of national platforms to promote this regular dialogue among stakeholders. The States

Parties have also acknowledged the importance of continuously exploring opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

With the 2025 deadline fast approaching, the Convention's Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance will co-host a panel on, making every effort count to achieve success in meeting the States Parties 2025 aspirations.

Objectives

The objective of this panel is to present the concept of '*all reasonable effort*' and available tools to support States in ensuring the implementation of *all reasonable effort* within the context of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention and to explore opportunities to strengthen partnerships to support the implementation of States Parties of their time-bound obligations as soon as possible, and to the fullest extent by 2025.

In this regard, the panel discussion, will aim to:

- Recall the legal obligation of the States Parties in implementation of Article 5;
- Introduce the concept of "all reasonable effort" and tools to support States Parties in ensuring its application at a national level;
- Provide a practical example of efforts to ensure that national policies and processes are in place for the implementation of "all reasonable effort" for the purpose of implementation of a States Article 5 obligations;
- Explore opportunities for cooperation and assistance to share best practices and lessons learned between States Parties;
- To discuss what success can look like by 2025 and efforts required to move us in this direction.

Format

The Committees will start with a moderated panel with experts to set the scene and provide the States Parties with food for thoughts on the implementation of Article 5 and the application of all reasonable effort, the sharing of lessons learned and on strengthening partnerships.

The second part will include an open floor interactive discussion, where the States Parties and organization will be invited to pose questions to the panelists and/or share brief information on their efforts to ensure effective and efficient implementation and alignment between their States' NMAS and IMAS to achieve ARE as well as challenges in this regard. States Parties and organizations will also be invited to offer brief information on cooperation and assistance to exchange best practices in the application of evidence-based survey and clearance and in particular efforts to foster south-south cooperation.

Speakers

- Co-Moderators:
 - **Vincent Bodson**, First secretary, Permanent Representation of Belgium to the United Nations in Geneva, Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
 - **Nana Nagai**, First Secretary, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

- **Wen Zhou**, Legal Adviser, Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit, Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- **Radwa Rabie**, Advisor, Capacity Development National Mine Action Standards and Compliance, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
- **Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda** – Director, Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre
- **Eri Komukai**, Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- **Oum Phumro** , Deputy Director General, Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
- **Akihito Hayashi**, Chief Advisor to CMAC, JICA

Questions for consideration by participants

1. What efforts has your state put in place to ensure it is best placed to complete implementation of its Article 5 obligation as soon as possible, such as:
 - a. Efforts to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination;
 - b. Ensuring that national mine action standards are in line with international mine action standards;
 - c. Establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation;
 - d. Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect.
2. What challenges does your State face in the implementation of the different aspects of the technical note on all reasonable effort to address its remaining contamination?
3. What are your State’s key objectives to implementing Article 5 obligation, to the fullest extent possible, by 2025? That is, with the upcoming aspirational deadline of the States Parties to the Convention’s time-bound obligations, to the fullest extent possible, by 2025, what will constitute success for your State?
4. What efforts has your State put in place to ensure that you have a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion, including the capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered?
5. What efforts has your States made to explore and/or support opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned?

Background documents

- The [Convention](#) on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.
- [The Oslo Action Plan](#)
- 17MSP [Recommendations and understandings](#) on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations
- [7.11/03 Technical Note – All reasonable effort](#)