

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

14 September 2023

Original: English

Twenty-First Meeting

Geneva, 20-24 November 2023

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 2023-2024

Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Colombia, France (Chair), Iraq and Sweden)

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee first met on 13 January 2023 to discuss its work plan towards the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP). During this meeting, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) provided the Committee with an overview of the Committee's mandate and priorities for implementation as identified by the Committee in 2022. The Committee also selected amongst its members a gender focal point (i.e. Colombia).
2. From February to May 2023, the Committee participated, with representatives of the Coordinating Committee, in fourteen bilateral meetings with the following States Parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Oman, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Zimbabwe to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing their Article 5 commitments and respective obligations under thematic areas of the Convention. The Committee used this opportunity to remind States Parties of their obligations under the Convention and the importance of their adherence with the decisions on their respective extension request, where relevant.
3. On 7 March 2023, the Committee distributed communications to the following twelve States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Tajikistan and Türkiye - that were due to submit updated work plans in 2023 in accordance with previously granted extension requests and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by States Parties on their requests for extension.
4. On 9 March 2023, the Committee together with the President and representatives of the Coordinating Committee participated in a workshop encouraging adherence of States Parties to their obligation to submit Article 7 Reports by 30 April 2023 containing updated information on implementation of their obligations under the Convention. The Committee further encouraged States Parties to include detailed quantitative and qualitative information on implementation of their Convention commitments in line with the Guide to Reporting and the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP).
5. 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 considerations of gender and diversity.



6. In the context of the invitation offered by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) to “the incoming Committee on Article 5 Implementation to assess the Article 5 extension request process and challenges, based on the previously adopted decisions by States Parties and, taking into consideration other relevant documents on this matter, determine whether there would be a common ground for strengthening the process, including the considerations of all relevant stakeholders in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner, in particular mine affected States, and to report its conclusions and recommendations at the Twenty-first Meeting of States Parties”.¹ On 16 June 2023, the Committee convened a meeting with Coordinating Committee members and observers to receive feedback on the Article 5 Extension Request process.

Furthermore, on 20 June 2023, the Committee invited mine affected States Parties to a breakfast discussion on efforts in the implementation of commitments under Article 5 of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan. The discussion sought to continue the cooperative dialogue, provide information on the extension request process, advice on how States Parties can take full advantage of the process, seek inputs on the process in light of the 20MSP decision and seek input on how best the Committee and the ISU can support efforts in this regard.

7. The Committee intends to continue the discussion with relevant parties by hosting an open meeting on 19 September 2023 in order to determine whether there is common ground for strengthening the process. The Committee will report its conclusions and recommendations at the Twenty-first Meeting of States Parties (21MSP) in accordance with the decision of the 20MSP.

8. During the first half of the year, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation worked with the President to engage Eritrea which remains in non-compliance with the Convention, including by signing, on 7 March 2023, together with the other members of the Coordinating Committee a communication to Eritrea encouraging a return to compliance as soon as possible.

9. During the Intersessional Meetings, the Committee chaired a panel discussion focused on one of the President’s priorities entitled The Convention and the threat of improvised anti-personnel mines with a focus on Action 21 of the OAP. The panel focused on the legal obligations of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention affected by improvised anti-personnel mines, the current threat posed by improvised anti-personnel mines in States Parties, challenges in addressing their humanitarian impact and lessons learned.

10. In addition, the Committee organised a second panel discussion entitled Finishing Strong – Preparing for completion as soon as possible with a focus on the importance of preparing for completion well ahead of Article 5 deadlines by ensuring that an adequate mechanism to address to the discovery of previously unknown or newly mined areas is in place including a sustainable national capacity for survey and clearance and the deliver mine risk education and reduction programs to affected community (Action 31). The panel also discussed the importance of consideration given to the demobilization of demining staff ahead of completion.

11. The Committee carried out a number of efforts to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Article 5 extension request process as established by the States Parties, as follows:

- (a) Ukraine submitted a request for extension of its deadline on 31 March 2023. Following the receipt of the request, the Committee made the request available on the Convention’s website and began its pre-analysis of the request. The Committee sent a letter to all States Parties informing them of the receipt of Ukraine’s request and where the request could be accessed on the Convention’s website;
- (b) Following the pre-analysis, the Committee determined that the request did not contain sufficient information to carry out its mandate to analyze the request. On 26 April 2023, the Committee initiated a cooperative dialogue with Ukraine and

¹ APLC/MSP.20/2022/15.

requested additional information in line with the working methods for the analysis of Article 5 extension requests²;

- (c) On 2 June 2023, Ukraine submitted additional information to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. The additional information was subsequently uploaded to the Convention's website;
- (d) On 10 June 2023, the Committee invited expert organizations to provide expert input on the request submitted by Ukraine in accordance with the process established by the States Parties;
- (e) On 19 June 2023, the Committee held a bilateral meeting with Ukraine on the margins of the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings to discuss Ukraine's extension request and the questions of the Committee regarding its content;
- (f) On 30 June 2023, the Committee invited expert organizations to a meeting to discuss Ukraine's extension request and the additional information submitted by Ukraine;
- (g) On 5 July 2023, the Committee, taking into consideration the input provided by experts, sent a communication to Ukraine requesting additional information on its implementation efforts in a revised request which would allow the Committee to carry out its mandate. The Committee requested Ukraine to submit the revised request by 15 August 2023;
- (h) On 4 September 2023, Ukraine submitted a response to the Committee through the submission of additional information;
- (i) The Committee will continue its dialogue with Ukraine and expert organizations throughout the extension request process, culminating in the Committee's analysis to be presented to the 21MSP, in accordance with the process established by the States Parties;

12. 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.

13. In the lead up to the Intersessional Meetings, the Committee worked on the development of preliminary observations based on information submitted by States Parties. 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 Oslo Action Plan, including considerations for gender and the diverse needs of affected communities. The Committee presented 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.³

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

- (a) Eight States Parties – Afghanistan (1 March 2025), Chad (1 January 2025), Cyprus (1 July 2025), Guinea-Bissau (31 December 2024), Niger (31 December 2024), Oman (1 February 2025), Peru (31 December 2024), and Serbia (31 December 2024) with Article 5 deadlines in 2024/25 that are obliged to submit a request for extension by 31 March 2024 should they not be in a position to declare completion of their Article 5 commitments to recall the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties and offer any assistance in this regard;

² APLC/MSP.9/2008/4 Page 69, [Appendix I to Annex II](#), Conclusions on working methods drawn by the States Parties mandated to analyse Article 5 Extension requests, 11 March 2008.

³ <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/intersessional-meetings/2022-im/documents/>

- (b) Six States Parties – Cambodia, Croatia, Ecuador, South Sudan, Thailand, and Yemen- that are due to submit updated work plans by 30 April 2024 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 21MSP.

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 2024 to ensure that all States Parties with Article 5 obligations submit high quality Article 7 Reports.

17. 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 prioritise 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 States Parties submitting requests for consideration by the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to submit their request by no later than 31 March 2024, and where possible ahead of this date, and to work closely with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation throughout the Article 5 extension request process.

18. 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 2024. 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.

19. 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 Oslo Action Plan. In this regard the Committee, in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference will continue to support States Parties to provide as much relevant information on progress in implementation towards the Actions of the OAP, and to encourage those States Parties that have not submitted Article 7 Reports in 2023 to do so as soon as possible.

20. In this regard, the Committee will aim to prioritise engagement with those States Parties that have not yet reported on their efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and those States Parties who had not yet reported progress on their efforts to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination. The Committee will also aim to encourage States Parties to report on the provision of context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, that are developed on the basis of a need assessment, tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

21. The Committee will also aim to prioritise ongoing 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.

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 Oslo Action Plan, including by proposing national and regional dialogues for implementation.
