

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 (c) of the provisional agenda

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention**Cooperation and Assistance: Conclusions and recommendations
related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of
Cooperation and Assistance**

Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024

**Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance,
(Algeria, Japan, the Netherlands and Thailand (Chair))**

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee first met on 16 January 2023 to discuss its work plan for 2023.
2. Over the course of February - May 2023, the Committee, together with the President and the three other Committees of the Convention, participated in bilateral meetings with the following States Parties to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing the Convention and respective obligations under thematic areas of the Convention : Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Zimbabwe.
3. On 9 March 2023, the Committee, together with the President and the three other Committees of the Convention, participated in a workshop reminding States Parties of the importance of adherence with the deadline (30 April) to submit annual Article 7 reports and encouraging States Parties to include detailed quantitative and qualitative information on implementation of their cooperation and assistance commitments in line with the Guide to Reporting and the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP). The Committee used the workshop as an opportunity to further promote the online reporting tool and to ensure the integration of matters related to cooperation and assistance and gender and diversity in the reports of States Parties.
4. On 1 May 2023, the Committee circulated a questionnaire with the aim of gaining a stronger understanding of ongoing and past cooperation and assistance to better understand progress made in the implementation of Action# 42-47 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) 2020-2024, which will pave the way to the Fifth Review Conference next year.
5. In the lead up to the 19 - 21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee worked on the development of preliminary observations based on information submitted by the States Parties in their Article 7 reports. The Committee submitted these preliminary observations to the Intersessional Meetings.
6. During the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance organised a panel discussion entitled Cooperation and Assistance and the Oslo Action Plan – Towards improved cooperation and



assistance which explored funding trends since the Fourth Review Conference, successes and lessons learned in drawing from innovative sources of funding, the plight of States Parties nearing completion and how support can be better coordinated among all stakeholders towards the Fifth Review Conference and beyond to better support States Parties in achieving completion of Article 5 by their deadlines and ensure the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention.

7. In the lead up to the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee supported Senegal in hosting an Individualised Approach (IA) meeting on 21 June 2023. The meetings offered the opportunity for Senegal to share the status and challenges of their mine action programmes with stakeholders. A final report of these meetings was drafted and will be placed on Senegal's page on the Convention's website.

8. Additionally, in the lead up to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP), the Committee collaborated with Somalia and Tajikistan who have expressed interest in taking advantage of the Individualised Approach on the margins of the 21MSP.

9. In 2022, the Committee launched the online reporting tool to support States Parties in the development and submission of their Article 7 reports. The Committee continued to raise awareness of the tool and encourage its voluntary use ahead of the 30 April 2023 reporting deadline.

10. The Committee updated the terms of reference for the Cooperation and Assistance Fund and, with support of the Implementation Support Unit and other partners, began working with Nigeria to take advantage of the Fund.

II. Priorities of the Committee

11. The Committee will continue to encourage and support States Parties in taking advantage of the Individualised Approach on the margins of the Intersessional Meetings and Fifth Review Conference in 2024.

12. The Committee will continue to encourage States Parties to ensure regular dialogue with stakeholders in country including by establishing national mine action platforms.

13. The Committee continues to see transparency and accurate reporting as a key element of stimulating cooperation and assistance. In this regard, the Committee will continue to promote the voluntary use of the online reporting tool for the 2024 reporting period.

14. The Committee will work on strengthening the Cooperation and Assistance Fund to support the exchange of best practices and facilitate South-South cooperation.

15. The Committee will work to determine efforts that could be put forth to strengthen donor coordination in support of mine affected States Parties reaching completion of their mine clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Convention.

16. The Committee will continue strengthening coordination between its work and the work of the Convention's Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Committee on Victim Assistance and other stakeholders.

17. Furthermore, with support of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit, the Committee will continue to seek opportunities to strengthen cooperation and assistance in support of the fulfilment by mine affected States Parties of the Article 5 and victim assistance commitments through activities in Geneva as well as regional and national activities.

18. In an effort to ensure the Committee's consideration for gender and diversity in its work, the gender focal point took the lead in developing a gender and diversity workplan for 2023 and will report back on the findings at 21MSP.

19. The Committee will take advantage of the European Union Council Decision support to ensure that matters related to Cooperation and Assistance are included in national and regional dialogues on mine clearance and victim assistance.

Annex I

Gender and Diversity Workplan - Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

Since the Oslo Review Conference and the adoption of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP), the role of the Gender Focal Points has been to ensure that gender, and the diverse needs and experiences of those in affected communities, are considered in the work of the different Committees of the Convention, in the implementation of their respective mandates. Youth related aspects of gender equality and the needs of young people will also be addressed, as appropriate, and when relevant.

The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, decided to work on the following works streams in 2023:

- The Committee will review information on the implementation of the Convention and implementation of the Oslo Action Plan commitments submitted by States Parties on cooperation and assistance in their Article 7 Reports due by 30 April 2023 to assess the level of information submitted on gender and diversity aspects (focusing especially on actions #45 and #47).
- In reviewing such information, the Committee may follow up with those States that present information on Cooperation and Assistance but do not present information on how they integrate gender and diversity matters in their cooperation and assistance efforts. The Committee will use these inputs for their statements at the Intersessional Meeting (June 2023) and/or at the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (November 2023).
- The Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance has also shared a Questionnaire to national Directors of Mine Action Programmes and donor States to provide information on their efforts/challenges in the implementation of their OAP Cooperation and Assistance Commitments. These include gender aspects in line with actions #45 and #47. Relevant outcomes will be shared either at the Intersessional in June and/or the 21MSP.
- In the run up to the Intersessional Meetings, during bilateral meetings, the committee members will address gender and diversity aspects of their mandate.
- The committee will apply a gender lens while examining the applications for the Cooperation and Assistance Fund (CAF) in line with the terms of reference/guidelines prepared by the Committee.
- At the Intersessional Meetings (19-21 June 2023), the Committee could present its preliminary observations on implementation of the gender and diversity aspects in a statement delivered 1) either by the chair/gender focal point of the Cooperation and Assistance Committee, or 2) preferably: as a joint statement by all gender focal points of the Coordination Committee (to be delivered by the President/one of the gender focal points/to be discussed with the other Convention committee gender focal points). This could include examples of implementation of best practices amongst affected states.
- The Committee will organise a thematic event on: Cooperation and Assistance and the Oslo Action Plan – Towards improved cooperation and assistance during the June Intersessional Meetings. The panel discussion will help promote gender mainstreaming by States Parties.
- At the Intersessional Meetings (June 2023), and during the Individualised Approach with Senegal, the committee will raise issues related to gender and diversity (concrete questions to be developed with the C+A Committee as well as with the other Committees).
- Together with and after consultation with the other Convention gender focal points, the Committee(s) will hold a panel discussion on gender and diversity at the 21MSP.

This discussion will not only include matters of substance but also ensure a gender and diversity balance concerning panelists and gender perspectives from both affected states and donor countries.

- At the 21MSP, the Committee will present its conclusions on implementation of gender and diversity aspects related to cooperation and assistance to be delivered by the 1) chair of the Committee or 2) the gender focal point of the Committee.
