

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 (d) of the provisional agenda

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention**Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating****compliance: Conclusions and recommendations related to
the mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance**

Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024

Committee on Cooperative Compliance

(Germany (Chair), Norway, South Africa, Switzerland and Türkiye)

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee began its work of engaging in a cooperative dialogue with States Parties and addressing matters related to its mandate with an initial meeting on 17 January 2023.
2. On 1 February 2023, the Committee met with Human Rights Watch (HRW) to discuss compliance matters related to the Convention, particularly the allegations of the use of anti-personnel mines by the Armed Forces of Ukraine highlighted by HRW's report dated 31 January 2023. Since then, the Committee has further engaged with HRW.
3. The Committee initiated a cooperative dialogue within days following the allegations having surfaced:
 - (a) On 9 February 2023, in line with its mandate to consider any follow up that might be appropriate for States Parties to better understand the situation and make suggestions on steps that the States Parties concerned could take to ensure that the Convention remains strong and effective, the Chair of the Committee met with Ukraine to discuss the allegations and initiate a cooperative dialogue.
 - (b) On 24 February 2023, the Chair of the Committee sent a communication to Ukraine requesting information on matters related to the allegations, including on steps Ukraine would take to investigate the allegations in an urgent manner. On 22 March 2023, Ukraine submitted a response to the questions of the Committee.
 - (c) On 31 March 2023, the Committee met with the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations in Geneva to discuss matters related to the response provided by Ukraine.
 - (d) On 10 May 2023, the Committee wrote to Ukraine in follow-up to the meeting to request additional information and encouraged Ukraine to participate in the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings in Geneva and to take this opportunity to update States Parties on the status of the investigations in line with Action #48 the Oslo Action Plan (OAP).



(e) On 20 June 2023, on the margins of the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee met with the delegation of Ukraine to discuss matters related to the allegations of the use of anti-personnel mines by the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

(f) On 14 August 2023, the Committee wrote to Ukraine to request an update on matters related to their efforts to address the outstanding allegations.

(g) On 12 September 2023, Ukraine provided a response to the Committee. The Committee subsequently met with Ukraine on 15 September 2023 to further discuss the response and to continue the cooperative dialogue.

4. The Committee is grateful for the engagement of the representatives from Ukraine and values their willingness to interact with the Committee on an ongoing basis, as well as their transparency concerning their efforts to address allegations of the use of anti-personnel mines.

5. On 3 March 2023, the Committee sent a letter to all 164 States Parties to recall the importance of reporting to ensure compliance with the obligations of the Convention, to remind them to adhere to the 30 April annual reporting deadline and to encourage the use of tools available to facilitate reporting, such as the online reporting format. The list of the 116 States Parties that reported having obligations under Articles 3, 4, 5 and/or 9 of the Convention was communicated with the letter.

6. On 9 March 2023, the Committee, joined by the other Committees of the Convention, convened an online workshop for States Parties and States not party on Article 7 Transparency Reports and the OAP. The workshop aimed to encourage reporting in line with the Guide to Reporting, raise awareness of available tools, particularly the online reporting tool, and to provide a space for States Parties to share challenge in relation to reporting. The workshop included interventions by the Chairs of each Committee and a representative of the gender focal points.

7. On 11 April 2023, the Committee circulated a letter to all States Parties with outstanding commitments under Article 9 of the Convention to request information on the status of efforts to take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control.

8. On 4 May 2023, the Chair of the Committee met with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Secretary General to discuss support for the implementation of the Committee's mandate concerning the national implementation measures under Article 9. Subsequently, on 30 May 2023, the IPU organised an "Online Global Dialogue for Members of Parliament: Towards the full implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention", which included participation from the Chair of the Committee, the Implementation Support Unit and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

9. On 10 May 2023, the Committee also wrote to Sudan and Yemen, to request an update on matters related to outstanding allegations of the use of anti-personnel mines in their respective countries and inviting these states to take the floor during the Intersessional Meetings to provide an update on this matter to States Parties.

10. At the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee submitted observations on the status of implementation of the compliance measures of the Convention and the OAP, highlighting progress and deficiencies in some areas of implementation.

11. In the lead up to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP), the Committee sent a communication to all States Parties implementing obligations of the Convention which have not submitted Article 7 reports in one or more years as well as those with outstanding commitments under Article 9.

II. Priorities for Implementation

12. The Committee will continue prioritising its cooperative dialogue with States Parties that have confirmed or have allegations of the use of anti-personnel mines in territories under

their jurisdiction or control and ensure the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan in this regard.

13. The Committee will continue encouraging States Parties to submit outstanding Article 7 reports and, in doing so, encourage States Parties to include information on the measures in place to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes.

14. Further to the above, and in accordance with its mandate, the Committee will work with States Parties to address all matters under Article 1.2 in cases where a State Party has not submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing relevant obligations each year. The Committee recognises that of particular interest, given underreporting in these areas, will be States Parties retaining mines under Article 3, implementing Article 5 obligations and States Parties with outstanding Article 9 obligations.

15. The Committee will prioritise efforts on making progress in the implementation of Article 9 and strengthen its partnership with the ICRC and IPU in this regard.

16. The Committee will continue its interactions with civil society in the context of its mandate.
