



Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties
20 to 24 November 2023, Geneva

19 December 2022

Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva of the States Parties and not party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

Interested international and non-governmental organisations

Re: Priorities of the President of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP)

Your Excellencies, dear colleagues,

It is an honour for Germany to assume the Presidency of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and its Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP) in Geneva. Our Presidency takes place during an important milestone in the Convention's life as we celebrate 25 years since its adoption and signature and as we enter the last two years of implementation of the Oslo Action Plan 2020-2024. We look forward to working with all of you to ensure progress in implementation towards the Fifth Review Conference in 2024.

We are impressed by the commitment and dedication of States Parties, especially those assuming a responsibility in one of the Committees of the Convention. And we are very grateful for the active support of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU).

As we indicated during the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, while we seek to support progress in the implementation of all aspects of the Convention, with support of the Coordinating Committee, our aim is to include the following aspects of implementation in our priorities:

1. Universality of the Convention is key to fulfil the aspiration of a world without anti-personnel mines. Convincing the states that remain outside of the Convention to take concrete steps towards joining, will need our collective and individual efforts. We consider that greater coordination of our approach to Universalization towards the Fifth Review Conference is needed. This is why we welcome the concept elaborated by the former Colombian Presidency and the ISU. We look forward to work alongside a committed group of member states to implement this concept.

2. Contamination by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature constitutes a major and ongoing challenge for many States Parties and falls under this convention, as determined inter alia by the Oslo Declaration and the Oslo Action Plan, in particular in Action #21. Addressing this challenge requires a coordinated response. By ensuring that States affected by this type of contamination address this threat within the framework of the Convention, we hope to improve cooperation in addressing this challenge.
3. Individualised approaches, in the sense of addressing specific challenges through the sharing of experiences and cooperation, can be decisive in reaching the Convention's implementation aims. We hope to contribute to more effective cooperation between mine-affected and supporting States Parties, by looking into factors and prerequisites for the success of such approaches.

We are further committed to acknowledging and further exploring two key aspects of implementation throughout our Presidency: an inclusive, gender-responsive approach and environmental aspects in the implementation of this Convention. We believe that additional attention to these matters will make this Convention fit for the future and will strengthen the Convention's implementation as the corner stone of the international effort to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

Lastly, looking beyond the 21MSP, I would like to encourage States Parties that are interested in hosting and/or taking on the Presidency of the Fifth Review Conference in 2024 to express their interest as soon as possible by contacting me or the ISU. This will allow us to work hand in hand and ensure continuity between the two presidencies.

I thank all of you for your commitment to the Convention and to the upholding of its norms. We look forward to working with you to move us closer to our common goal: a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Sincerely,



THOMAS GÖBEL

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament

President of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties