



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

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK

Monday 20 November

10:00 – 12:00

1. Official opening of the meeting

The meeting will be opened by the President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP), H.E. Thomas Göbel, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament.

2. Ceremonial opening of the meeting

A ceremonial opening will feature messages from H.E. Katja Keul, Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General, UN High Representative for Disarmament, Mr. Cristian Andrés Melo from the Federation of National Association of Anti-Personnel Mine Survivors of Colombia on behalf of mine victims and survivors, Mr. Gilles Carbonnier, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Steve Goose, Director of the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch, and Dr Barbara Haering, President of the Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

The opening ceremony will feature a musical performance by the Nürnberg Symphony Orchestra (Nürnberger Symphoniker).

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting will be asked to adopt its agenda as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/1, which was presented to delegations at the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings.

4. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers

The Meeting will be asked to elect the eight outgoing members of the Committees as Vice-Presidents of the 21MSP: France, Iraq, Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye and Uganda.

5. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting

The Meeting will be asked to confirm the Ambassador of Switzerland H.E. Julien Thöni as Secretary-General of the 21MSP. Ambassador Thöni will be invited to offer remarks as host country and Secretary-General of the 21MSP.

6. Organisation of work

The Meeting will be asked to adopt its programme as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/2, which was presented to delegations at the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings.

12:00 – 13:00

7. Thematic panel – More Effective Cooperation Between Mine-Affected and Supporting States Parties: The Individualised Approach in Context

The States Parties have recognized that while each State Party is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, enhanced cooperation can support implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible. The States Parties have also long recognised that the effective implementation of the Convention relies on overcoming distinct and often unique circumstances faced by mine-affected States and that the needs for cooperation and support might vary substantially depending on the specific national implementation context.

These realisations led to the establishment of the Individualised Approach, which, in its essence, offers a platform for affected States Parties to share information on their challenges in implementation and requirements for support. Furthermore, national mine action platforms are meant to ensure regular dialogue between stakeholders and foster more systematic and long-term partnerships. The Individualised Approach is thus the first step in a comprehensive process encompassing national mine action platforms and other forms of enhanced cooperation. What is clear is that mine affected States and States Parties in a position to provide assistance have an important role to play in the success of these approaches.

As the 21MSP is the last formal opportunity to take stock of our collective efforts before the Fifth Review Conference, it is a good opportunity to offer time to a more in-depth discussion on under what circumstances the Individualised Approach and national mine action platforms can be successful, where challenges for mine-affected states as well as donors lay, and which areas to consider when looking at more effective international cooperation as we move forward towards the Fifth Review Conference.

To prepare for this discussion delegations may wish to consider the following questions:

- How can States in a position to provide assistance coordinate their resources towards successful implementation of the Convention, increased flexibility and ensure that no State is left behind?
- How can the mechanisms for enhanced cooperation best be used and what should we consider in a future action plan to assure that no mine-affected state is left behind?

15:00 – 16:00

8. General exchange of views

Delegations will be given the opportunity to deliver brief general statements no longer than four (4) minutes. Interested delegations should contact the Implementation Support Unit to be inscribed on the speakers' list ([isu\(at\)apminebanconvention.org](mailto:isu(at)apminebanconvention.org)).

Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the Twenty-First Meeting, States Parties and Observers are encouraged to refrain from making general statements but rather provide updates on

implementation on thematic matters indicated in agenda item 10. For those delegations that do not wish to deliver oral statements, written statements can be provided and will be made available on the Convention's website.

16:00 – 18:00

9. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests

The Meeting will consider requests for extensions on mine clearance deadlines that have been or are due to be submitted by Eritrea and Ukraine. States Parties submitting requests will be invited to present the salient points of their requests (8-10 minutes).

In keeping with past practice, there will be an opportunity for discussions on extension requests, with the States Parties returning to formal consideration of these requests later in the week.

The Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, mandated the 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.”

The States Parties will be asked to welcome the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.

18:00 Opening reception

All participants of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties are invited to a cocktail reception on the occasion of the opening day of the 21MSP. The reception will take place at the restaurant of the International Committee of the Red Cross, 17 avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva and will be hosted by Germany, Switzerland, the Canton of Geneva, and City of Geneva.

Tuesday 21 November

10:00 – 13:00

9. Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (*continued*)

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

a) Assisting the victims: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance

The Committee on Victim Assistance will present its conclusions and recommendations.

States Parties implementing victim assistance activities¹ will be invited to provide brief updates (4-5 minutes) on their efforts to fulfil obligations victim assistance (Actions 33 through 41) of the Oslo Action Plan. In addition, these States Parties will be invited to comment on the conclusions of the Committee on Victim Assistance. Other delegations may remark on these updates and share their views on victim assistance.

States Parties are encouraged to inform on their efforts to mainstream gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

15:00 – 18:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (*continued*)

a) Assisting the victims: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance (*continued*)

Wednesday 22 November

10:00 – 13:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (*continued*)

b) Clearing mined areas and mine risk education and reduction: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation will present its conclusions and recommendations.

States Parties which have recently completed or are still in the process of clearing mined areas² will be invited to provide brief updates (4-5 minutes) on their efforts to fulfil their obligations and Actions 18 through 32 of the Oslo Action Plan. In addition, these States Parties will be invited to comment on the conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Other delegations may remark on these updates and share their views on Article 5 implementation.

States Parties are encouraged to inform on their efforts to mainstream gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

15:00 – 18:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (*continued*)

b) Clearing mined areas and mine risk education and reduction: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (*continued*)

¹ The following 38 States Parties have reported carrying out victim assistance activities: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine (State of), Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

² The following 33 States Parties are still in the process of clearing mined areas in accordance with Article 5: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine (State of), Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

c) Cooperation and Assistance: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance will present its conclusions and recommendations.

In particular, the Committee will present its efforts to strengthen cooperation and assistance and the implementation of Actions 42 to 47 of the Oslo Action Plan, the Individualised Approach, and on improving communication amongst States Parties.

Delegations will be given the opportunity to provide updates and share their views on cooperation and assistance and on the conclusions of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

States Parties are encouraged to inform on their efforts to mainstream gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

Thursday 23 November

10:00 – 13:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (*continued*)

c) Cooperation and Assistance: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance (*continued*)

d) Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance

The Committee on Cooperative Compliance will present its conclusions and recommendations.

States Parties³ which have been mentioned in the conclusions of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance may wish to provide an update on ongoing investigations or activities undertaken to ensure compliance in accordance with Actions 48 to 50. In addition, these States Parties are invited to comment on the conclusions of the Committee. Other delegations may remark on these updates and share their views on compliance issues.

15:00 – 18:00

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (*continued*)

e) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

The President will present its conclusions and recommendations on stockpile destruction.

States Parties responsible for destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines⁴ as well States Parties that have discovered previously unknown stockpiles and States Parties exploring available alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes, will be invited to provide brief

³ Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen.

⁴ Greece and Ukraine.

updates on their efforts to fulfil their obligations in accordance with Actions 13 to 17. These updates should contain only new information with efforts made to avoid duplication with respect to updates provided in June at the Intersessional Meetings. Other delegations will be given the opportunity to remark on these updates and to share their views on stockpile destruction.

f) Universalizing the Convention

The President will give an overview of the status of universalization and efforts carried out to promote universalization of the Convention.

States not party to the Convention will be invited to share views on the Convention and to provide updates on steps taken or consideration to accede to the Convention. Other delegations will be given the opportunity to provide updates on their efforts to encourage universal acceptance of the Convention and to share their views on universalization.

g) Transparency and the exchange of information

The President will give an overview of the status of transparency.

Delegations may provide updates and share views on transparency and the exchange of information, including transparency as concerns mines retained for permitted purposes.

Friday 24 November

10:00 – 13:00

8. General exchange of views (*continued*)

If necessary, the General exchange of views agenda item will be reopened to give the opportunity to those delegations which could not deliver general statements on Monday to do so. Statements should not be longer than four (4) minutes and interested delegations should contact the Implementation Support Unit to be inscribed on the speakers' list ([isu\(at\)apminebanconvention.org](mailto:isu(at)apminebanconvention.org)).

10. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (*continued*)

h) Implementation Support

i. Report on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU and presentation of a work plan and a budget for the 2024 activities of the ISU

Further to the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU" adopted by the 10MSP and further to decisions of the 14MSP on strengthening financial governance and transparency, the ISU is to propose and present every year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement, and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval, a detailed yearly budget and work plan for the ensuing year within the range and limits of the applicable multi-year work plan, both in terms of expenditures related to core support and expenditures related to enhanced support contained therein.

The Director of the ISU will present the work plan and the budget for the activities of the ISU in 2024. The Meeting will be asked to approve these documents.

The Director of the ISU will report on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU and present the 2022 ISU audit report as well as the ISU preliminary financial report for 2023.⁵ The Meeting will be asked to approve the report on the activities and finances of the ISU and the ISU's 2022 audited financial statement.

Delegations will be given the opportunity to provide comments and/or share their views on the ISU work plan and budget 2024, the 2022 audit report, and the 2023 preliminary financial report.

ii. Other matters concerning implementation support

The Meeting will be asked to agree on the proposed dates for the 2024 Intersessional Meetings: 17-19 June 2024.

In keeping with its mandate, in 2023 the 21MSP President undertook the task of consulting with States Parties to identify a list of nominees to serve as new Committee members following the 20MSP. On 18 May 2023, the President wrote to all States Parties to indicate that it was seeking two new States Parties for each of the four Committees for two-year terms. On the basis of interest expressed, the President has developed a proposal listing of States Parties to serve as new Committee members from the end of the 21MSP for a two-year term.

If this proposal is agreed to by the 21MSP, the following eight new States Parties would start their two-year membership term at the end of the 21MSP:

- Committee on Victim Assistance: Burkina Faso and the Netherlands
- Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Thailand and the United Kingdom
- Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: Türkiye and Denmark
- Committee on Cooperative Compliance: Germany and Peru

11. Status of assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention⁶

The status of assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties will be presented and delegations will be given the opportunity to provide comments and views on the assessed contributions.

15:00 – 18:00

12. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

The Meeting will be asked to take decisions on the requests for extended mine clearance deadlines which will have been or may be submitted by Eritrea and Ukraine.

13. Consideration of matters arising from/in the context of reports submitted under Article 7

14. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8

Failing the establishment of a cooperative dialogue and the resolution of the current status of non-compliance through the submission of an extension request by Eritrea by 31 March 2023, the 20MSP

⁵ The ISU is tasked to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties and to submit an audited annual financial report for the previous year and a preliminary financial report for the present year to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval.

⁶ A decision was taken at the Fourth Review Conference to continue to include in the agenda of the annual Meetings of the States Parties an agenda item on the "Status of assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention."

mandated the President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties to seek clarification and resolve questions related to compliance by Eritrea through the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 8.2 of the Convention and to report back to the States Parties at their Twenty-First meeting.

The President will report back to the States Parties on the implementation of this decision.

15. Election of the President of the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties and of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties

The Meeting will be asked to agree that H.E. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice-President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) be elected to preside over the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties.

The Meeting will be asked to welcome the offer made by Japan to preside over the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties.

The Meeting will be asked to welcome the offer made by Zambia to preside over the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties.

16. Duration and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Fifth Review Conference and the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties

The Meeting will be asked to agree that the Fifth Review Conference take place in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 25 to 29 November 2024.

The Meeting will be asked to agree that the First Preparatory Meeting in advance of the Fifth Review Conference take place on 20 June 2024 in Geneva and that the Second Preparatory Meeting in advance of the Fifth Review Conference take place on 18 September 2024 also in Geneva.

17. Any other business

Delegations will be given the opportunity take the floor on matters that have not been covered otherwise by the meeting.

18. Consideration and adoption of the final document

The Meeting will be asked to consider and adopt its final report.

19. Closure of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties

The meeting will be closed by the President.