
Fifth Review Conference 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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Review of the operation and status of the Convention

Draft review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 2019-2024

Measures to ensure compliance, best practices for implementing the Convention

Submitted by the President of the Fifth Review Conference^{*,**}

I. Measures to Ensure Compliance

1. The States Parties stressed the importance of complying with all the Convention's provisions and remain committed to ensuring compliance with the obligations of the Convention to reach its objectives. In doing so, the States Parties reaffirmed their commitment to promote compliance with the Convention and adopted several actions in this regard.

2. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties recognised the importance of States Parties that face alleged or known non-compliance with the general obligations under Article 1 to provide information on the situation to all State Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive, and transparent manner possible and to work together with other States Parties in a spirit of cooperation to resolve the matters in an expeditious and effective manner, in accordance with Article 8.1. While the cases of alleged non-compliance by a State Party with Article 1.1 of the Convention remain rare, the States Parties are determined to cooperate to ensure that the norms of the Convention are upheld by all.

3. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance has considered allegations/confirmed allegations of non-compliance with Article 1.1 which surfaced in Sudan (2011/2012), Ukraine (2023) and Yemen (2011). The Committee has regularly requested these States Parties to provide updates on their efforts to address the allegations/confirmed allegations, respectively, through written communication and bilateral meetings. The Committee has welcomed the continuous engagement of these States Parties. Both Sudan and Yemen have indicated that security remains the critical challenge in addressing the allegations/confirmed allegations, as areas where the incidents took place are

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

** The present report was submitted after the deadline in order to reflect the most recent developments/information.

currently outside of their effective control. These States Parties have indicated that they will continue communicating with the Committee and the States Parties on their efforts in this regard.

4. Concerning Ukraine, since the allegations surfaced in 2023 subsequent Presidents and the Committee on Cooperative Compliance have been engaged in a cooperative dialogue with Ukraine. During the 18-20 June 2024 Intersessional Meetings, Ukraine indicated that it takes all concerns of the non-governmental organisations regarding the alleged use of anti-personnel mines by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Izium, Kharkiv region seriously and that the investigative department of the Security Service of Ukraine in the Kharkiv region, under the procedural guidance of the Kharkiv Specialised Prosecutor's Office in the sphere of defense, is carrying out a pre-trial investigation into the criminal case. Ukraine further highlighted that the pre-trial investigation in these criminal proceedings is ongoing.

5. In the OAP, the States Parties agreed that any State Party implementing obligations in particular under Article 4 or 5, or retaining or transferring mines in line with Article 3 that has not submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing these obligations each year will provide in close cooperation with the ISU an annual update on the status of implementation in line with Article 7 and will provide information to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. If no information on implementing the relevant obligations for two consecutive years is provided, the President will assist and engage with the States Parties concerned in close cooperation with the relevant Committee.

6. In this regard, as of 15 September 2024, the following States Parties have not submitted reports in 2024:

(a) Concerning the thirty-five States Parties with Article 5 obligations, seven States Parties – Afghanistan, Ecuador, Eritrea, Nigeria, Oman, Somalia and Sudan – have not submitted an Article 7 report. Of these, six have not submitted an Article 7 report in the last two years: Afghanistan (last report in 2021), Ecuador (last report submitted in 2022), Eritrea (last report in 2014), Oman (last report in 2021), Somalia (last report in 2020) and Sudan (last report in 2022);

(b) Concerning the sixty-one States Parties retaining mines under Article 3, twenty-five States Parties – Bhutan, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Gambia, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Namibia, Oman, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania (United Republic of), Togo, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia - have not submitted an Article 7 report. Of these, 19 have not submitted an Article 7 report in the last two years: Burundi (2021), Cameroon (2009), Cape Verde (2009), Congo (2009), Côte d'Ivoire (2014), Djibouti (2005), Ecuador (2022), Eritrea (2014), Gambia (2020), Guyana (2021), Honduras (2007), Indonesia (2020), Kenya (2021), Namibia (2010), Oman (2021), Rwanda (2008), South Africa (2022), Tanzania (2009), Togo (2004), and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2012).

7. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties reiterated the importance of any State Party that has not yet fulfilled its obligations under Article 9 of the Convention urgently taking all appropriate legal, administrative, and other measures to implement those obligations and report on the measures taken no later than by the 20MSP. Additionally, at the Fourth Review Conference, the mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance was amended to include, amongst other, support to States Parties in their efforts to implement and report on matters contained in Article 9 of the Convention.

8. Since the Fourth Review Conference subsequent chairs of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance have sent written communications to States Parties with outstanding obligations under Article 9 and engaged with these States on a bilateral basis in Geneva as well as in New York. On 6 May 2021, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance held a workshop on Article 9 reporting which included participation of the Committee, New Zealand, the ICRC, and the ISU with the objective of raising awareness of the importance of Article 9 and the tools and assistance available to States Parties as well as taking stock of the status of implementation efforts and, challenges and obstacles faced in this regard. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance has strengthened important partnerships in this regard, particularly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

and the ICRC. The strengthening of these partnerships has been agreed as critical going forward.

9. At the close of the Fourth Review Conference, there were 72 States Parties that had reported that they had adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations and there were 38 States Parties that had reported that they considered existing national laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention. The remaining 54 States Parties, i.e. almost 32 percent of States Parties, had not yet reported having either adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations or that they considered existing laws were sufficient to give effect to the Convention.

10. Since the Fourth Review Conference:

(a) Two States Parties – Niue and Sri Lanka have indicated that they have adopted legislation in accordance with Article 9: Niue and Sri Lanka;

(b) Five States Parties – Guyana, Iraq, Philippines, State of Palestine and Ukraine - have indicated that they consider existing laws to be sufficient;

(c) One State Party - Eritrea – had been erroneously listed amongst the States Parties that had not yet reported on measures taken to implement Article 9;

(d) Three States Parties – Cameroon, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay submitted information which is currently being analysed.

11. In this regard, there are now 75 States Parties that have reported that they have adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations and 43 States Parties that have reported that they consider existing national laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention. The following 46 States Parties still need to report on measures they have taken to implement Article 9: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Haiti, Jamaica, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Nauru, Nigeria, Palau, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uruguay and Vanuatu. The States Parties have agreed that pursuing fulfilment of Article 9 is an important goal for the Convention in the coming years.

12. While the cases of alleged non-compliance by a State Party with Article 1.1 of the Convention remain rare, the States Parties are determined to ensure that the norms of the Convention are upheld by all. States Parties have further highlighted the need to ensure that States Parties comply with the obligations of the Convention including matters associated with the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 1.2 as well as on reporting under Article 7.

13. Since the Fourth Review Conference, one State Party - Eritrea – failed to submit an Article 5 request for extension of its Article 5 deadline by its deadline of 31 March 2020. In 2021, the 19MSP decided to establish a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea in the traditional spirit of the Convention. Failing the establishment of such a dialogue and resolution of the current status of non-compliance through Eritrea's submission of an extension request, by 31 March 2023, the 20MSP decided 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. Since the Fourth Review Conference, subsequent Presidents and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, through written communication and bilateral meetings endeavoured to establish a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea. Having not been successful in establishing a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea to resolve this matter, the States Parties at the 20MSP recalled the 19MSP decision and "mandated the President of the 21MSP to implement this decision and to report back to the States Parties at their Twenty-First Meeting". The decision also noted that the President and office holders of the Convention stood ready to sustain a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea to see that this situation could be overcome as soon as possible, and that Eritrea would be supported in reengaging in the work of the Convention. Following the closure of the 20MSP, the following transpired:

(a) On 31 March 2023, Eritrea did not submit a request for extension of its Article 5 deadline.

(b) On 24 May 2023, following several unsuccessful efforts to establish a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea as envisaged under Article 8.1, the President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties sent a Request for Clarification to Eritrea through the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with the decision of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties.

(c) On 21 June 2023, Eritrea submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations indicating Eritrea's decision to withdraw from the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

(d) On 2 October 2023, Eritrea submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations indicating its decision to withdraw its notification letter of 21 June 2023 regarding 'withdrawal from the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

(e) Following the establishment of a cooperative dialogue with the President of the 21MSP, Eritrea, on 16 November 2023, submitted a Request for Extension of its Article 5 deadline which was granted by the 21MSP.

14. The States Parties welcomed Eritrea's re-engagement with the work of the Convention and their participation at the 21MSP. The States Parties also noted the importance of States Parties maintaining a cooperative dialogue with the office holders of the Convention to resolve any matter concerning implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The States Parties further recalled the important role that transparency plays in the Convention's implementation.

15. Furthermore, since the Fourth Review Conference, the President as Chair of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance has worked to raise awareness of the importance of strengthening the norm of Convention:

(a) During the 30 June – 2 July 2020 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation organised a panel discussion on "Cooperative Compliance within the framework of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention". The panel discussion was chaired by Sudan and included the participation of Switzerland, the ICRC, and Human Rights Watch. The panel highlighted that while progress in the Convention's implementation has been impressive, the Convention faces several challenges including the slow pace of implementation of Article 5, lack of progress in other areas such as stockpile destruction and other deficiencies such as the lack of submission of Article 7 transparency reports. The panel also highlighted the importance of progress in ensuring that States Parties have strong national implementation measures in place and the role of the ICRC in supporting States Parties in this regard. The panel also highlighted the new role of the Committee on Cooperative compliance in following up on issues related to Article 7 and Article 9 as the key compliance mechanisms of the Convention;

(b) During the 22-24 June 2021 Intersessional Meetings, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance organised a panel discussion on "Strengthening Compliance Measures". The panel discussion was moderated by the Netherlands and included speakers from Colombia, Poland, ICRC, Inter-Parliamentarian Union, and Human Rights Watch. The panel discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring that all measures to ensure compliance of the Convention are implemented including the establishment of national implementation measures in accordance with Article 9 and adherence to transparency reporting measure under Article 7. The panel also highlighted the importance of the Convention taking full advantage of partnerships with, for example, the ICRC and the IPU in strengthening compliance.

II. Best Practices for implementing the Convention

16. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties recognised the special partnerships of the Convention with the United Nations, the ICRC, the ICBL and the GICHD and the importance of fostering partnerships with civil society in support of implementing

the Convention. Furthermore, the States Parties identified best practices that are key to the successful implementation of the Convention's obligations.

17. National ownership¹ continues to be a key element of ensuring that Convention obligations are met, including the integration of Convention implementation activities into broader frameworks such as national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities as appropriate, and by making financial and other commitments to implementation. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 29 States Parties implementing Article 5 and/or victim assistance obligations have reported having included Convention implementation activities into broader national frameworks including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. This included the integration of Convention activities into peacebuilding or in implementation of SDGs. While progress has been made by several States, national efforts in this regard should continue to ensure that the implementation of the Convention continues to be prioritised at a national level, in particularly given the importance of mine action in supporting achievement of the objectives of broader frameworks.

18. The breaking down of silos in implementation of the Convention has been viewed as increasingly important, as implementation of the Convention addresses matters related to disarmament, development, human rights, health, humanitarian, environmental and good governance. While greater awareness has been raised about the importance of integrating Convention implementation activities into broader frameworks, efforts should continue to further capitalise on these synergies. Increasing understandings of how to ensure that these synergies result in concrete action in support of the Convention, including through the gaining of access to more diverse financial sources at national and international levels.

19. In addition to the integration of Convention implementation activities, the States Parties have recognised the importance of strengthening partnership with humanitarian, peacebuilding, development, and human rights efforts, where relevant, bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 31 States Parties have reported progress in this regard including: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

20. Additionally, 31 States Parties (74%) implementing Article 5 and/or victim assistance obligations have reported making national financial commitment to the implementation of mine clearance and victim assistance obligations under the Convention including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Nevertheless, most States Parties have indicated a lack of national financial resources to implement their obligations under the Convention. Likewise, several States Parties reported the diversion of resources to addressing matters related to the Covid-19 pandemic. The allotment of increased national resources remains a priority for States Parties.

21. The States Parties continue to recognise the importance of mine affected States Parties having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place.

¹ The States Parties have defined national ownership as entailing the following: 'maintaining interest at a high level in fulfilling Convention obligations; empowering and providing relevant State entities with the human, financial and material capacity to carry out their obligations under the Convention; articulating the measures its State entities will undertake to implement relevant aspects of Convention in the most inclusive, efficient and expedient manner possible and plans to overcome any challenges that need to be addressed; and making a regular significant national financial commitment to the State's programmes to implement the Convention'.

Since the Fourth Review Conference, 35 States Parties (83%) reported having evidence based strategies or work plans in place for the implementation of their Article 5/ victim assistance obligations including: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. The States Parties continue to view high quality work plans as an indispensable element of resources mobilization and recognise the importance of ensuring an evidence-based and inclusive approach to their development.

22. Since the Fourth Review Conference the States Parties have aimed to raise awareness concerning the importance of consideration for the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men in implementation of the Convention, to deliver an inclusive approach and in doing so remove barriers to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 31 mine affected States Parties (74%) have reported having in place work plans and/or strategies that integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experience of people in affected communities into account including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. States Parties noted the importance of continued efforts in this regard including ensuring greater consultation with individuals and mine affected communities and their representative organisations in the develop and implement projects, programs, policies at local and national levels.

23. Since the Fourth Review Conference, several efforts have been put forward to further raise awareness of the importance of gender and to encourage consideration for gender in the deliberations of the Convention including:

(a) During the 30 June – 2 July 2020 Intersessional Meetings, the Gender Focal Points organised a panel discussion on “Effective Implementation for All: Gender and Diverse Needs in Practice”.² The panel was moderated by Norway in its capacity of Gender Focal Point on the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and included participation from Cambodia, Colombia, Uganda, the HALO Trust, and MAG. The panel served to raise awareness of the value of gender and diversity mainstreaming for the effective implementation of the Convention and the OAP. The panellists provided an overview of the challenges that remain to be addressed to ensure consideration of gender and diversity in all areas of implementation and shared best practices and recommendations to ensure effective, efficient, and context-specific implementation. The panel discussion also provided an opportunity to ensure that States Parties are familiarized with the role of the recently established gender focal points;

(b) During the 22-24 June 2021 Intersessional Meetings, the Gender Focal Points organised a panel discussion on “Integrating the Diverse Needs of Affected Communities in Operational Planning and Prioritization”. The panel discussion was moderated by Spain and included participation from representatives of Afghanistan, El Salvador, Norway, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Humanity and Inclusion and the GICHD. The objective of the panel was to provide examples and best practices on how to ensure that gender and the diverse needs of affected communities are integrated into operational planning and prioritisation setting mechanisms; provide information on the tools and support available to States Parties to achieve this objective, and; provide a donor perspective on what States Parties in a position to provide assistance can do to further support the implementation of this objective. The panel recognised the importance of considering gender and the diverse needs of affected communities to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the convention. The panel further noted the importance of States Parties in a position to provide assistance integrating gender considerations into their policies;

² 2020 <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/intersessional-meetings/im20/>

(c) In May 2022, a Workshop on “Best practices and lessons learned from practical mainstreaming of gender and diversity in mine action”, hosted by the Gender and Diversity Working Group (GDWG), and co-sponsored by Colombia and the United Kingdom in their respective capacity as President of the 20MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the 10MSP of the Cluster Munitions Convention examined how gender and diversity considerations can be better mainstreamed in survey and clearance, risk education, victim assistance and international cooperation and assistance. It also sought to understand how to overcome the obstacles to full, equal, and meaningful women’s participation in mine action operations and Convention meetings, and to raise awareness of the intersection between gender and factors of vulnerability and exclusion (e.g. age, religion, ethnicity, language, and disability);

(d) During the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, the President organised a panel entitled “Cross-cutting priorities of the Presidency: Gender and the diverse needs of mine affected communities – lessons learnt and way ahead”.³ The panel was moderated by Germany in their capacity of President of the Convention and included participation from the ASEAN Mine Action Centre, the HALO Trust and UNIDIR. The panel recognised the progress and challenges in ensuring consideration for matters related to gender and diversity in implementation of the Convention emphasising the importance of the next action plan continue to stress the importance of consideration for gender for the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention.

24. Since the Fourth Review Conference, reporting on efforts made in this regard have improved. The establishment of a gender focal point in the Convention’s thematic Committees has helped ensure consideration for gender in implementation of the Committees’ mandates to review information submitted by the States Parties and to develop annual preliminary observations and conclusion. While progress has been made, continued attention to this matter going forward will be paramount. This includes ensuring continued disaggregation by sex, age, and disability when it comes to casualty data as well as the provision of desegregated data when it comes to beneficiaries of mine risk education and reduction programmes. Additionally, the Committees have recorded progress in reporting on matters regarding gender not only by mine-affected States Parties but also increasingly by States Parties in a position to provide assistance including by Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The States Parties underlined the importance of States Parties in a position to provide assistance to report on their gender policies.

25. Furthermore, since the Fourth Review Conference, approximately 50% of States Parties’ delegations have included women on their delegations. Despite this, a lack of gender balance and representation of landmine survivors and persons with disabilities in delegations participating in Convention meetings is still observed. This representation extends to the delivery of statements during Convention meetings. Finally, since the Fourth Review Conference, no State Party has included mine victims as part of their delegation to Convention meetings.

26. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties have highlighted the importance of inclusion. 28 States Parties have reported an inclusive approach to the development of Article 5/ victim assistance national strategies and work plans including Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Likewise, 26 States Parties (68%) implementing Victim assistance activities have included victim organisations in their victim assistance planning including Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

27. In implementing Convention obligations, the States Parties continued to emphasise the importance of NMAS aligned to the latest IMAS, adapted to new challenges, and ensuring

³ <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/intersessional-meetings/im23/>

that States Parties employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation . Since the Fourth Review Conference, 30 States Parties (90%) implementing Article 5 obligations have indicated that national standards in place have been updated or are in the process of being updated in line with IMAS including : Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. The IMAS⁴ were continually updated since the Fourth Review Conference and in some cases new IMAS have been introduced, such as IMAS 13.10 on Victim Assistance in Mine Action adopted in January 2023. Furthermore, Technical Notes for Mine Action (TNMA) have been developed to support implementation by the States Parties in several areas of implementation.

28. In this regard, the States Parties have recognised the importance of States Parties continually reviewing and updating their NMAS accordingly, where relevant. Despite most States Parties having reported on the application of evidence-based survey and efficient land release methodologies, in some cases survey methodologies could further be improved to avoid unnecessary complications and costs caused by inaccurate sizes and locations of hazardous areas being recorded. Improvement of survey methodologies can avoid costly clearance occurring in areas without direct evidence of contamination.

29. Despite shortcomings, since the Fourth Review Conference there is an increased awareness of challenges related to the survey, clearance and reporting of improvised mine contamination.

30. Since the Fourth Review Conference, States Parties have highlighted the importance of States Parties in a position to provide assistance to, where feasible, provide assistance to States Parties in developing, updating, or implementing their national strategies and work plans to fulfil their respective Convention obligations and to enter into multi-year partnerships and provide multi-year funding. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 21 States Parties have reported partnerships with mine affected States Parties in fulfilment of the Convention obligations including: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, 25 States Parties have reported providing financial or other support to affected States Parties including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. Finally, 12 States Parties reported doing so on a multi-year basis including: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Estonia, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

31. While several efforts have been carried out to foster cooperation and assistance, it is evident that efforts must continue in-country and at the international level. A more coordinated effort will be required by States in a position to provide assistance to support States Parties that have demonstrated a high level of national ownership and who have put forth clear plans to address their remaining challenges.

32. The States Parties have continuously emphasised the importance of mine-affected States Parties providing information on progress and challenges in implementation of the Convention by 30 April of each year in line with their Article 7 obligations and employing the Guide to Reporting. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 32 States Parties have reported employing fully or partially the Guide to Reporting including Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

33. Since the Fourth Review Conference, several States Parties have improved their reporting practices providing increased clarity on the status of implementation in their annual

⁴ <https://www.mineactionstandards.org/>

Article 7 transparency reports. Nonetheless, improvements can be made to align their reports more closely to the Guide to Reporting adopted by the States Parties. This is particularly the case when it comes to reporting on methodologies employed in implementation and matters concerning considerations for gender and the diverse needs of mine affected communities. Unfortunately, global reporting rates continue to stagnate at approximately 50%. Nevertheless, reporting rates are relatively high amongst States Parties that have reported obligations under Article 5 and States Parties reporting on the implementation of victim assistance activities. On the other hand, reporting rates for States Parties with retain anti-personnel mines under Article 3 and/or outstanding obligations under Article 9 remain low. Given the importance of reporting, this matter will continue to be a priority for States Parties.

34. In line with the decision of the Fourth Review Conference for States Parties affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination as they do for all other types of anti-personnel mines, including reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations, the increased use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature has increased reporting obligations for several States Parties. Continued cooperation with these States Parties to support Convention reporting and implementation practices will be increasingly important going forward. Along with the Guide to Reporting, since the Fourth Review Conference, IMAS 05.10 on Information Management for Mine Action, published in March 2020, includes standardised guidance on the information to be collected including on anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature.

35. Since the Fourth Review Conference, several efforts have been put forward to improve reporting. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperative Compliance, together with the Chairs of the other Convention Committees as well as a representative of the Gender Focal Points have held an online Article 7 reporting workshops, inviting all States Parties and States not party to raise awareness of the importance of the information provided by States Parties on their implementation efforts to track implementation of the Convention and the OAP as well as for the fulfilment of the President and Committee's mandates. The workshops also provided an overview of the tools and support available to States Parties. These workshops took place early in the year and served as a reminder to States Parties to encourage submission of reports by the 30 April deadline. These Article 7 reporting workshops have been well received by the States Parties and will be an important feature going forward.

36. While reporting on progress in implementation is crucial, States Parties have recognised the importance of States Parties continuing to articulate the challenges they face in implementation, including during the formal and informal meetings of the Convention. Since the Fourth Review Conference, approximately 39 States Parties annually report on progress and challenges in implementation during Convention meetings including: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe. The States Parties continue to view updates provided by States Parties during formal and informal meetings of the Convention as an important part of ensuring success in implementation of the Convention in the traditional spirit of transparency and cooperation of the Convention.

37. To support States Parties in reporting on progress and challenges in accordance with the Guide to Reporting, the States Parties have recognised the importance of mine affected States Parties having in place national information management systems containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. Since the Fourth Review Conference, 28 States Parties (84%) implementing Article 5 have reported having a sustainable national information management system in place including Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. The States Parties recognised that high quality data is crucial to support States Parties in the effective and efficient implementation of the obligations under the Convention.

38. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the importance of taking into consideration matters related to the environment and climate change in the Convention's implementation became more prominent. In this regard, at the 21MSP, the President introduced a paper entitled "Green Implementation: integrating Environmental Consideration into the implementation of the Convention". The paper highlighted several key matters in this regard, including the following:

(a) Conflict-affected countries face heightened vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change. Of the 20 countries deemed most vulnerable to climate change, 11 have reported mined areas under their jurisdiction or control and several more are contaminated by other types of explosive ordnance⁵;

(b) In the coming decades, changes to the climate are predicted to increase in all regions of the world, bringing, for example, more intense rainfall and associated flooding, heatwaves, more intense droughts, and coastal flooding.⁶ This will both increase the likelihood of climate-related hazards occurring in areas contaminated with anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordnance and may affect how States Parties prioritise and conduct implementation efforts;

(c) Anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordnance continue to pose a serious threat to the lives and livelihoods of people in many countries preventing communities from accessing and managing essential resources such as food and water and putting additional pressure on scarce natural resources. Furthermore, the degradation of explosive ordnance may also cause the release of hazardous chemicals into soil or groundwater, unplanned detonations may trigger forest fires, and the presence of explosive ordnance can hinder efforts to extinguish forest fires. In this regard, consideration and assessment of the environmental consequences throughout mine action operations can help mitigate negative impacts;

(d) While the text of the Convention contains only two references to the environment – one on the reporting on environmental standards to be observed during the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Articles 4 and 5; and the other on the need for Article 5 extension requests to include environmental implications - understandings of environmental impact and climate change have advanced considerably since the adoption of the Convention in 1997, including the need for action to mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changing global environment. In recent years, States and the humanitarian actors have increasingly considered how to better integrate environmental consideration into implementation efforts;

(e) Environmental and climate change considerations are relevant to everyone, including national authorities, clearance operators, and donors. In the same way as gender and diversity are, justly, being mainstreamed throughout the Convention's implementation, States Parties should consider how to best integrate and mainstream the environment and climate change.

39. During the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, the President organised a panel entitled "Cross-cutting priorities of the Presidency, Green Implementation: Integrating Environmental Considerations in the Convention's implementation". The Panel was moderated by Germany in their capacity of President of the Convention and included participation from Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre and Mine Action Review on behalf of the Environmental Issues in Mine Action Working Group. The panel discussed the importance of integrating environmental considerations into implementation efforts with Bosnia and Herzegovina sharing some of their environmental consideration when it comes to the Convention's implementation. The panel discussion provided a timely opportunity for States Parties to consider the place of the environment in the next five-year Action Plan to be adopted at the Fifth Review Conference.

40. Since the Fourth Review Conference a range of initiatives and studies have been carried out to strengthen the link between mine action and the environment and to provide

⁵ University of Notre Dame, ND-GAIN country index scores for 2021, at: <https://tinyurl.com/zea87zs6>

⁶ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) press release, "Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying," 9 August 2021, at: <https://tinyurl.com/mr28d6b3>.

guidance to States Parties including the elaboration and updating of an International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13 on Environmental Management in Mine Action. Additionally, a Technical Note for Mine Action (TNMA) to support implementation is in the process of being developed which will provide additional practical guidance to States Parties on implementation of IMAS 07.13. Also, a few studies by the GICHD, particularly a “Guide to the Ageing of Explosive Ordnance in the Environment” and “Mine Action and the Resilience of Communities to Climate Change” underscore the enabling role of mine action in fostering communities resilience to climate change and emphasise the potential for further enhancement in integration of climate resilience considerations in the Convention’s implementation. Furthermore, a wealth of best practices have been acquired by States Parties and organisations in this regard. Going forward, a greater understanding and awareness raising of the interaction between mine action and the environment could contribute to its further integration.

41. Article 11 of the Convention states that “the States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of the Convention (...)” and that Meetings of the States Parties subsequent to the First Meeting of the States Parties will be convened annually until the First Review Conference. At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties agreed to hold annual Meetings of the States Parties until the Fifth Review Conference.

42. The 18MSP was held in Geneva (virtual) on 16-20 November 2020 and presided over by His Excellency Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sudan to the United Nations at Geneva. The 19MSP was held in the Hague (virtual) on 15-19 November 2021 and presided over by His Excellency Robbert Jan Gabriëlse, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament and Disarmament Ambassador at-large. The 20MSP was held in Geneva on 21-25 November 2022 and presided over by Colombia. The President of 20MSP, Her Excellency Alicia Victoria Arango Olmos, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations at Geneva, due to unforeseen personal circumstances, resigned from her post on 31 May 2022. The States Parties subsequently accepted the nomination of His Excellency Alvaro Enrique Ayala Melendez, Ambassador and Chargé d’Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations at Geneva to preside over the 20MSP. The 21MSP Parties was held in Geneva on 20-24 November 2023 and was presided over by His Excellency Thomas Göbel, Ambassador of the Republic of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament. The Fifth Review Conference is planned to be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 25-29 November 2024 and will be presided over by His Excellency Ly Thuch, Senior Minister of Cambodia and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority.

43. Since the Fourth Review Conference several States Parties have served on positions within the Convention’s implementation machinery including the following:

- (a) Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, France, Iraq, Norway, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Zambia;
- (b) Victim Assistance Committee: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Chile, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, Zambia;
- (c) Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: Algeria, Colombia, Denmark, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Sudan, Thailand, Türkiye, United Kingdom;
- (d) Committee on Cooperative Compliance: Chile, Cambodia, Colombia, Germany, Iraq, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Spain, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye.

44. The establishment of a gender focal point within each Committee to mainstream matters related to gender and diversity into the work of the Committees continues to be viewed as a positive change. Since the Fourth Review Conference, every Committee has nominated a gender focal point, ensuring that matters regarding gender are highlighted in the documentation of the Committee, during bilateral meetings with mine affected States Parties as well as during informal and formal meetings of the Convention.

45. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties have continued to make use of the Meetings of the States Parties as mechanisms to advance implementation of the Convention. Each Meeting of the States Parties considered final conclusions on the implementation of the mandate of the President and the Convention's thematic Committees. These reports measured progress made by States parties in the pursuit of the Convention's core aims between Meetings of the States Parties, highlighting the status of implementation of relevant actions of the OAP and priority areas of work for the President and the Committees going forward. In addition, programmes for the Intersessional Meetings and Meetings of the States Parties provided an opportunity for States Parties implementing key provision of the Convention to provide updates in fulfilment of their obligations.

46. The States Parties have recognised the importance of ensuring that the machinery of the Convention continues to serve the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, the States Parties have recognised the importance of ensuring that assessed contributions in line with Article 14 of the Convention for United Nations support to the Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences and any arrears are settled as soon as possible. Since the Fourth Review Conference, an average of 71% of States have paid their contributions no later than three months before the formal meetings of the Convention. Unfortunately, in some cases, States Parties have not paid their assessed contribution or settled their arrears for several years.

47. The States Parties have also recognised the importance of States Parties providing voluntary contributions to the ISU of the Convention. Since the Fourth Review Conference an average of 28 States Parties have provided voluntary contributions to the ISU on an annual basis including: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye and the United Kingdom. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the ISU has continued to report regularly and in accordance with the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU" as well as with other decision of the States Parties. In accordance with the Decision of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, quarterly reports have been submitted by the ISU to the Coordinating Committee on the activities and finances of the ISU.

48. Since the Fourth Review Conference, through financial support provided by Switzerland, the ISU continues to be hosted by the GICHD, ensuring that there was no cost to the States Parties associated with the logistical and administrative support to the ISU. The States Parties have annually recognised the important support function provided by the ISU to the President, the Committees, the Sponsorship Programme, the Universalization Coordination Group, and individual States Parties, and consistently called for States Parties to continue their support to the ISU.

49. Since the Fourth Review Conference, the Convention's informal Sponsorship Programme, coordinated by Australia, continues to be a critical component of the Intersessional Meetings and Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, ensuring that representatives of States Parties that would otherwise not be able to participate in the work of the Convention are able to participate in the Convention's deliberations. The States Parties have recognised the importance of States Parties continuing to consider voluntary contributions for the Sponsorship Programme to ensure its continued success. Since the Fourth Review Conference 11 States Parties have contributed to the Sponsorship Programme including: Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Türkiye.
