



Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

26 – 30 November 2018
Geneva, Switzerland

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

17  **MSP**

Geneva 26-30 November 2018



Ending the suffering and casualties
caused by anti-personnel mines



Above, Kofi Annan smiles after seeing a picture of the 1997 signing of the Convention in which he also participated.

IN MEMORIAM

"In 1997 the international community responded with unprecedented multilateral cooperation and called for determined action to rid the world of landmines.

The signing of the Ottawa treaty was one of the highlights of my career at the United Nations.

It provided us with great hope, not only for the disarmament agenda, but for the power of multilateralism in a world facing challenges of increasing complexity.

To a large extent, that hope has been validated; the determination of the States Parties has made the Ottawa Treaty one of the great successes of international diplomacy. [...] Following the implementation of the Cartagena and Maputo Action Plans, many have made considerable progress.

[...]It is often the last stretch that is most difficult, but the progress thus far attests to what can be achieved. I hope we will see renewed dedication to ending the scourge of anti-personnel mines. ***The vision of a world free of landmines by 2025 is one we all share. We can and must make that happen. If we do, it will be a great triumph of human solidarity and an enduring testimony to how we can work together to eradicate a terrible injustice to some of the world's most vulnerable communities.***"

—Kofi Annan, AP Mine Ban Convention Pledging Conference, 2016



(Photo left) Nearly 40 States, international and non-governmental organisations attended the Third Pledging Conference presided over by the Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Abdullah Abdullah and 17MSP President H.E. Suraya Dalil. (Photo right) H.E. Manabu Horii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan attends the Conference in February.

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1 Week at a Glance

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER	TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER	WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER
	<p>8:30-9:30 Gender in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention ROOM: XXVI HOST: IGC Disarmament Impact Group</p>	<p>09:30-13:00; 15:00-18:00 VA Experts Meeting ROOM: XXII HOST: Committee on Victim Assistance (By invitation)</p>
<p>10:00-13:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official opening of the meeting • Ceremonial opening of the meeting • Adoption of the agenda • Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers • Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting • Organisation of work • General exchange of views 	<p>10:00-13:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal presentation of requests for extension of deadlines submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (continued) • Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (a) Assisting the victims 	<p>INFORMAL DAY: BILATERALS + SIDE EVENTS</p>
<p>13:00-15:00 In search of safe ground in the Pacific ROOM: XXII HOST: Safe Ground</p> <p>National Stakeholder Dialogues in mine-affected States Parties –EU’s support for implementation of the Maputo Action Plan ROOM: XXV HOST: European External Action Service & European Union Delegation to UN Geneva</p> <p>Landmine Monitor: 2018 Briefing ROOM: XXVI HOST: Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor</p>	<p>13:00-15:00 Victim Assistance: whose role is it anyway? ROOM: XXV HOST: Humanity and Inclusion</p> <p>“Clearing the Mines 2018” briefing and discussion on key issues in the lead up to the Fourth Review Conference ROOM: XXVI HOST: Mine Action Review</p>	<p>11:00-13:00 Risk Education: sharing of experiences from the Middle East ROOM: XXVI HOST: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining</p> <p>13:00-15:00 Protecting people: what humanitarian law means to victim assistance ROOM: XXII HOST: Landmine Monitor</p> <p>Towards a mine-free Cambodia by 2025 ROOM: XXV HOST: Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority</p> <p>Youth engagement on the Mine Ban Treaty ROOM: XXVI HOST: Mines Action Canada</p>
<p>15:00-18:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General exchange of views (continued) • Informal presentation of requests for extension of deadlines submitted under Article 5 and analysis of these requests 	<p>15:00-18:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (a) Assisting the victims (continued) (b) Clearing mined areas 	<p>INFORMAL DAY: BILATERALS + SIDE EVENTS</p>
<p>18:00 Opening reception HOST: Afghanistan, Switzerland and the Canton of Geneva LOCATION: Serpentine Bar, Palais des Nations</p>	<p>18:00 The UK’s Global Mine Action Programme 2014 – 2018: lessons learnt ROOM: XXV HOST: United Kingdom</p>	

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER	FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER
<p>09:30-13:00; 15:00-18:00 VA Experts Meeting ROOM: XXII HOST: Committee on Victim Assistance (By invitation)</p>	
<p>10:00-13:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Clearing mined areas (continued) 	<p>10:00-13:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) Cooperation and Assistance (continued) (d) Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance (e) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines (f) Universalising the Convention (g) Transparency and the exchange of information
<p>13:00-15:00 The successful experience of the Latin American Network of Survivors of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War and Persons with disabilities. ROOM: XXII HOST: Humanity and Inclusion and International Campaign to Ban Landmines</p> <p>Negotiating humanitarian access for mine action in conflict situations ROOM: XXV HOST: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining</p> <p>Women and youth in mine action: building stronger communities ROOM: XXVI HOST: United Nations Mine Action Service</p>	<p>13:00-15:00 IMSMA Core update – data standardisation and visualisation ROOM: XXV HOST: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining</p>
<p>15:00-18:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Clearing mined areas (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Reflecting on the implementation of Article 5 (c) Cooperation and Assistance 	<p>15:00-18:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the general status and operation of the convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (h) Implementation Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Report on ISU activities, functioning, and finances; presentation of work plan and budget for 2019 ISU activities ii. Other matters concerning implementation support • Financial Status of assessed contributions to MSPs • Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5 • Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7 • Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8 • Election of the Fourth Review Conference President • Date, duration, location of the Fourth Review Conference and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Fourth Review Conference • Any other business • Consideration and adoption of the final document • Closure of the 17MSP

The Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) is the formal, diplomatic meeting of the 164 States that have accepted to be bound by the Convention. These include most of the States that at one time used, stockpiled, produced or transferred anti-personnel mines and the vast majority that are or have been affected by anti-personnel mines. Several States that are not party to the Convention are attending as Observers.

The 17MSP, presided by Afghanistan and hosted by Switzerland, takes place 26-30 November 2018 at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

This is the last formal meeting reviewing progress made by States Parties implementing the 31 actions of the *Maputo Action Plan 2014-2019*. The Meeting will also take stock of States Parties' efforts to meet the Convention's goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS



Special Envoy of the Convention HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium addresses the 16MSP in Vienna. Princess Astrid is a long-time advocate of landmine survivors' rights, and part of the landmine movement for nearly two decades. Belgium is also Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance.



Above, a female mine clearance team in Sri Lanka.

Newest Members! Sri Lanka and Palestine are the newest States Parties; the Convention entered into force for both on 1 June 2018.



2 Programme of the Seventeenth Meeting of the State Parties (17MSP)

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 13:00

1 Official opening of the meeting

Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties President and Ambassador of Afghanistan to Switzerland and the United Nations in Geneva H.E. Suraya Dalil opens the meeting.



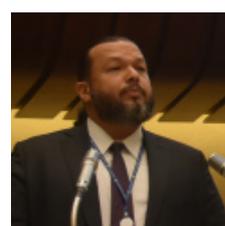
Afghanistan MFA



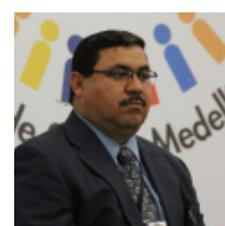
ICRC



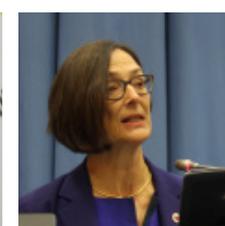
Special Envoy



Photo, ICBL



Fundación Red



GICHD

2 Ceremonial opening of the meeting

Featuring addresses by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan H.E. Salahuddin Rabbani; ICRC President Peter Maurer; Convention Special Envoy HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein; ICBL Director Hector Guerra; Fundación Red Director Jesús Martínez; and GICHD Council of Foundation President Barbara Haering.

3 Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting will be asked to adopt the agenda presented to delegations on 8 June 2018 during the intersessional meetings.

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

The Meeting will be asked to elect the eight outgoing members of the Committees as Vice-Presidents of the 17MSP: Algeria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, Iraq, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

5 Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting

The Meeting will be asked to confirm the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament H.E. Sabrina Dallafior as 17MSP Secretary-General.



6 Organisation of work

The meeting will be asked to adopt its programme as contained in the document presented to delegations on 8 June 2018 during the intersessional meetings.

7 General exchange of views¹

Delegations will be given the opportunity to deliver brief general statements. Interested delegations should contact the Implementation Support Unit to be inscribed in the speakers' list. Delegations not wishing to deliver oral statements can submit written statements to be made available on the Convention's website.

15:00 – 18:00

7 General exchange of views (continued)

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

The Meeting will be asked to consider mine clearance deadline extension requests submitted by Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. In keeping with past practice an opportunity for informal presentations and discussions on the requests is provided, with States Parties returning to formal consideration of such requests later in the week.

18:00

Opening reception hosted by Afghanistan, Switzerland and the Canton of Geneva
Location: Serpentine Bar, Palais des Nations.



Landmine clearance continues in Serbia. Photo, SMAC.



In 2003, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams was a featured guest at a stockpile destruction ceremony in Cyprus.

¹Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the meeting, States Parties and Observers are encouraged to refrain from making general statements and rather provide updates on implementation of thematic matters indicated in agenda item 9. Delegations may wish to distribute written statements in lieu of oral statements.

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 13:00

8 Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (continued)

9 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 having reported significant numbers of mine victims² are invited to provide brief updates on efforts to fulfil their obligation, and steps undertaken to implement victim assistance aspects (Actions #12 through #18) of the *Maputo Action Plan*. These States Parties are welcome to comment on the Committee's conclusions. Other delegations are welcome to remark on the updates and share their views on victim assistance.

15:00 – 18:00

9 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 (continued)

b) Clearing mined areas:

i. 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 areas³ are invited to provide brief updates on their efforts to fulfil their obligations and on steps taken to implement mine clearance aspects of the *Maputo Action Plan* (Actions #8 through #11). In addition, these States Parties are welcome to comment on the Committee's conclusions. Other delegations are welcome to remark on the updates and share their views on Article 5.



A group of children hike past a warning sign in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Photo, BHMALC.

² The following 29 States Parties have reported significant numbers of landmine survivors: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Informal day for bilateral meetings and side events. Please consult the side events calendar for more information on events taking place on Wednesday.

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 13:00

9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

b) Clearing mined areas:

i. Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (continued)

15:00 – 18:00

9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

b) Clearing mined areas:

i. Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (continued)

ii. Reflecting on the implementation of Article 5

Since the entry into force of the Convention, 30 States Parties have reported completion of their Article 5 obligations. While implementation of Article 5 has not taken place without practical and technical implementation challenges, the States Parties have addressed these issues by taking a number of decisions, grounded in the text of the Convention itself, to ensure the full and effective implementation of Article 5.

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation presents a document aiming to recall the States Parties' obligation to destroy anti-personnel mines in mined areas under Article 5, reference the key understandings adopted by the States Parties on implementation of Article 5 obligations and provide recommendations to States Parties in declaring completion.

The Meeting will be asked to adopt the recommendations contained in the document presented by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.

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, efforts to strengthen cooperation and assistance and implementation of relevant aspects of the *Maputo Action Plan* (Actions #19 to #24) through an individualised approach and improved 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.

³ The following 31 States Parties are still in the process of clearing mined areas in accordance with Article 5: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

2 Programme of the Seventeenth Meeting of the State Parties (17MSP)

FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 13:00

9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

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 Parties mentioned in the conclusions are invited to provide an update on ongoing investigations or activities undertaken to ensure compliance in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention and Action #29 of the *Maputo Action Plan*. In addition, these States Parties are welcome to comment on the Committee's conclusions. Other delegations are welcome to remark on these updates and to share their views on compliance issues.

e) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

The President will present her conclusions and recommendations on stockpile destruction. States Parties responsible for destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines,⁴ as well States Parties that have discovered previously unknown stockpiles are invited to provide brief updates on their efforts to fulfil their destruction obligations. These updates should contain only new information 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 share their views on stockpile destruction.

f) Universalizing the Convention

The President will provide an overview on the status of universalization. States not party to the Convention are invited to share views on the Convention and provide updates on steps being taken or considered to accede to the Convention. Other delegations are given the opportunity to provide updates on their efforts to encourage universal acceptance of the Convention and share their views on universalization.

g) Transparency and the exchange of information

The President will provide an overview on the status of transparency. Delegations are welcome to provide updates and share views on transparency and exchange of information, including transparency as concerns mines retained for permitted purposes.



In May, the Convention Special Envoy met with Myanmar's Ministers of Defense and International Cooperation to encourage Myanmar to undertake urgent mine clearance and engage in the work of the Convention. The visit was sponsored by a European Union Council Decision in favor of implementation of the Convention.



⁴ Greece, Oman and Ukraine

15:00 – 18:00

9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

h) Implementation Support

i. Report on ISU activities, functioning and finances and presentation of a work plan and budget for 2019 ISU activities

Further to the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” adopted by the 10MSP and 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 ISU Director will present the work plan and budget for 2019 ISU activities. The Meeting is asked to approve said work plan and budget.

The ISU Director will report on ISU activities, functioning and finances, present the 2017 ISU audit report as well as the ISU preliminary financial report for 2018.⁵

The Meeting will be asked to approve the report on ISU activities and finances and 2017 audited financial statement.

Delegations will be given the opportunity to provide comments and/or share their views on the 2019 ISU work plan and budget, 2017 audit report and 2018 preliminary financial report.

ii. Other matters concerning implementation support

The Meeting will be asked to agree that the 2019 intersessional meetings take place on 22-23 May and morning of 24 May 2019.

In keeping with the Presidency’s mandate, the 17MSP President undertook the task of consulting with States Parties to identify a list of nominees to serve as new Committee members following the meeting. On 25 May 2018, the President wrote to all States Parties indicating the search for two new States Parties for each of the four Committees for two-year terms. On the basis of interest expressed, the President developed a proposal listing those States Parties that would serve as new Committee members beginning at the end of the 17MSP for a two-year term – not precluding any decision that may be made by the Fourth Review Conference concerning the Convention’s implementation machinery.

If this proposal is agreed to by the 17MSP, the following eight States Parties would start their new two-year membership term at the end of the 17MSP:

- Committee on Victim Assistance: Chile and Italy
- Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Austria and Canada
- Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: United Kingdom and Turkey
- Committee on Cooperative Compliance: Iraq and Switzerland

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.

2 Programme of the Seventeenth Meeting of the State Parties (17MSP)

10 Financial status of assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties

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

a) Report on the President's consultations undertaken to strengthen financial predictability and sustainability

The 16MSP requested the President "to continue to consult with the view of strengthening financial predictability and sustainability and to report back to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties." The President reports to the 17MSP on the outcomes of her consultations.

Delegations will be given the opportunity to provide comments and views on matters related to financial predictability and sustainability.

11 Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

The Meeting will be asked to take decisions on requests for extended mine clearance deadlines submitted by Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

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

13 Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8

14 Election of the Fourth Review Conference President

The Meeting will be asked to agree that the Ambassador of Norway to the United Nations in Geneva H.E. Hans Brattskar, be elected to preside over the Fourth Review Conference.

15 Date, duration, location of the Fourth Review Conference, and matters pertaining to the preparations for the Fourth Review Conference

The Meeting will be asked to agree that the Fourth Review Conference take place the week of 25 November 2019 in Oslo, Norway.

The Meeting will be asked to agree that a first preparatory meeting in advance of the Fourth Review Conference take place on the afternoon of 24 May 2019 and that a second preparatory meeting take place all day on 18 September 2019.



The Meeting will be asked to elect Norway as Presidency of the Fourth Review Conference (#4RevCon). This will be the third time Norway presides over the Convention; second time over a Review Conference.

16 Any other business

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

17 Consideration and adoption of the final document

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

18 Closure of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties

The meeting will be closed by the President.



The Senegal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Mine Action Centre hosted a two-day National Stakeholder Dialogue on mine clearance sponsored by the European Union.



In October, former Convention Chair, Ambassador Susan Eckey of Norway, EU Head of Delegation to Uganda, representatives of the Uganda Landmine Survivor Organisation, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and non-governmental organisations representing the rights of persons with disabilities attended a VA stakeholder dialogue in Kampala sponsored by the European Union.

3 Side Events + VA Experts Meeting

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER
13:00 – 15:00

In search of safe ground in the Pacific

ROOM: XXII

HOST: Safe Ground

A presentation and panel discussion investigating Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in the Pacific. The side event presents a case for international governments and agencies to work collaboratively in support of non-technical survey and systematic clearance of ERW in the Pacific.

CONTACT: lorelt@optusnet.com.au

National Stakeholder Dialogues in mine-affected States Parties – the EU’s support for Maputo Action Plan implementation

ROOM: XXV

HOSTS: European External Action Service and European Union Delegation to UN in Geneva

Over 300 stakeholders gathered in four States Parties. High level government and military officials engaged in a State not party. What has been the outcome of efforts undertaken in 2018 through Decision 2017/1428 adopted by the European Union Council to help implement the Convention? Hear first-hand knowledge on barriers to universalization, gains in integrating landmine victim assistance into wider national frameworks, and outcomes of national stakeholder dialogues on mine clearance. Join us for an active discussion and visual presentation.

CONTACT: l.rodriquez@apminebanconvention.org

Landmine Monitor: 2018 Briefing

ROOM: XXVI

HOST: Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor

Civil society experts discuss recent developments in landmine ban policy, survey and the clearance of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, and provide updates on casualty rates and efforts to guarantee the rights and meet the needs of landmine victims.

CONTACT: elea@icblcmc.org



TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER
08:30 – 09:30

IGC Disarmament Impact Group: Gender in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

ROOM: XXVI

HOST: IGC Disarmament Impact Group

The International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group is convening a briefing to present a tailored factsheet on gender in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, to support Member States in integrating gender perspectives in their work at the 17MSP and beyond. The event is held in cooperation with the Gender & Mine Action programme (GMAP) and the Government of Norway.

CONTACT: renata.hessmandalaqua@un.org

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER
13:00 – 15:00

Victim Assistance: whose role is it anyway?

ROOM: XXV

HOST: Humanity and Inclusion

Victim assistance funding as part of the global mine action budget has reduced significantly. In response, a study undertaken by Cambodia and Australia demonstrates the important role mine action can take in promoting victim assistance.

CONTACT: e.fischer@hi.org; e.hottentot@hi.org

“Clearing the Mines 2018” briefing and discussion on key issues in the lead up to the Fourth Review Conference

ROOM: XXVI

HOST: Mine Action Review

The Mine Action Review is set to present major findings of the Clearing the Mines 2018 report, joined by Advisory Board Members, The HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), to discuss some of the key issues facing the mine action community in the lead up to next year’s Review Conference of the Convention. The panel is moderated by the President Designate of the Fourth Review Conference Ambassador Hans Brattskar of Norway.

CONTACT: LucyP@npaid.org

**TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER
13:00 – 15:00****The UK's Global Mine Action Programme
2014 – 2018: lessons learnt**

ROOM: XXV

HOST: United Kingdom

Presenting headline findings from the recently published evaluation of the UK Aid funded Global Mine Action Programme which ran in Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Somalia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Burma between 2014 and 2018. The UK has invested significantly on understanding the impact of mine action on development and peacebuilding, ensuring UKAid supports delivery of the SDGs. DFID's independent evaluation specialist Itad, will present the major findings and lessons, followed by a Q&A.

CONTACT: eleonora.saggese@fco.gov.uk**WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER
11:00 – 13:00****Risk Education: sharing of experiences from the
Middle East**

ROOM: XXVI

HOST: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

There has been a sharp increase in global victim numbers since 2015 largely as a result of the victims from the Middle East. This stems from the use of improvised mines and other IEDs, combined with ongoing conflicts, limited access and large population groups of IDP's and refugees on the move. There is a high demand for Risk Education services but the context for delivery is fraught with challenges. Donors have increased their funding towards Risk Education in the region but how effective is it? What are the lessons learnt in these developing situations? This side event draws on current experience of Risk Education implementation in the Middle East to provide a 'situation report' and suggest recommendations to improve and strengthen Risk Education tools, approaches and delivery.

CONTACT: k.hodge@gichd.org**WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER
13:00 – 15:00****Protecting people: what humanitarian law means
to victim assistance**

ROOM: XXII

HOST: Landmine Monitor

A different way of looking at victim assistance. A discussion on international humanitarian law and Mine Ban Treaty victim assistance from new angles, addressing real-life situations and exploring pertinent questions: When is humanitarian law relevant? What does it mean to women, girls, men, boys, refugees, and fighters? What are the connections between the laws of war, victim assistance, the CRPD and SDGs?

CONTACT: loren@icblcmc.org**Cambodia: towards a mine free Cambodia, 2025**

ROOM: XXV

HOST: Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority

The side event showcases the Cambodian mine action sector's 25 years of achievements and, display the country's capability in addressing the challenges posed by mines/ERW. The side event presents lessons learnt and looks at opportunities and means to engage, re-energize and mobilise support to meet the goal of a mine-free Cambodia by 2025.

CONTACT: kallyan@cmaa.gov.kh**Youth engagement on the Mine Ban Treaty**

ROOM: XXVI

HOST: Mines Action Canada

The involvement of youth is crucially important to meeting the 2025 goals and ensuring complete implementation of the Ottawa Treaty. Join Mines Action Canada, the Mine Action Fellows and other leaders in humanitarian disarmament to discuss how and why young people can be engaged in mine action and disarmament more broadly.

CONTACT: Erin@minesactioncanada.org

3 Side Events + VA Experts Meeting

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER
13:00 -15:00

The successful experience of the Latin American Network of Survivors of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War and Persons with disabilities

ROOM: XXII

HOST: Humanity and Inclusion and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines

This event presents experiences from the Latin American Network through a panel discussion with ICBL Director Hector Guerra, and Jesus Martinez, Survivor from El Salvador. They are to present a joint declaration elaborated by the Network during the 4th Regional Seminar advocating for greater participation in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

CONTACT: e.fischer@hi.org

Negotiating humanitarian access for mine action in conflict situations

ROOM: XXV

HOST: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

This side event discusses how to negotiate humanitarian access for mine action in today's conflicts. The side event gathers a panel representing a wide spectrum of actors, including humanitarian organisations that experienced and studied the issue of access and preservation of humanitarian space.

CONTACT: g.maspoli@gichd.org

Women and youth in mine action: building stronger communities

HOST: United Nations Mine Action Service

ROOM: XXVI

With concrete case studies from the field (ongoing projects in Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia), the side event emphasises that ownership is critical to efficiency, impact and sustainability, both at the national and local level. The side event highlights how International Assistance to States Parties can unlock the potential of women and youth in building resilient communities.

CONTACT: daniela.ciulei@un.org

FRIDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2018
13:00-15:00

IMSMA Core update – data standardisation and visualisation

ROOM: XXV

HOST: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Providing an update on how mine action authorities are rolling out and using IMSMA Core. The IMSMA Core user meetings which will start as from 2019 are introduced; providing an opportunity for the community to share experiences and good practices on IM and GIS for mine action. The GICHD will demonstrate how a standard common set of data requirements from mine action programs can ensure programs abilities to fulfil reporting obligations and enable analysis of mine action data at a global level.

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In Baghdad, nearly 80 representatives of government, disability rights experts and organisations representing landmine survivors rights, gathered for a three-day on Victim Assistance. The meeting was sponsored by a Decision from the European Union Council to implement the Convention and hosted by the Directorate for Mine Action of Iraq.

WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER – THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER
09:30-13:00; 15:00-18:00

Victim Assistance Experts Meeting

ROOM: XXII

HOST: Committee on Victim Assistance

A Victim Assistance Experts Meeting running in parallel to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties is being hosted by the Committee on Victim Assistance. Committee Chair, Belgium, together with members Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique supported by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) are holding the two-day meeting to focus on victim assistance aspects of the *Maputo Action Plan*, in particular Action 15.

Taking into account local, national and regional circumstances, States Parties are to “do their utmost to strengthen local capacities, enhance coordination with subnational entities as relevant and appropriate, and increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age. This entails removing physical, social, cultural, economic, political and other barriers, including expanding quality services in rural and remote areas and paying particular attention to vulnerable groups.”

At the meeting, experts can exchange experiences and best practices, reflect on needs and challenges and learn about initiatives currently undertaken in areas of inclusive development, assistive technology, and on the ongoing efforts on indicators for disability and Sustainable Development Goals, among other issues of interest for Action 15 implementation. Furthermore, participants can learn about opportunities available for victim assistance implementation under a European Union Council Decision including a 2019 Global Conference on Victim Assistance; as well as the upcoming Fourth Review Conference. Victim Assistance Experts’ views and input is particularly valued to contribute to the success of these important events.

IN MEMORIAM

As we gather for this Victim Assistance Experts Meeting, we remember two colleagues who for decades worked tirelessly to advance the rights of all persons with disabilities including landmine survivors. Their contribution to their national programmes and the disability rights world will be forever remembered.



Dr. Ahmed Yousif, Sudan's Mine Action Centre



H.E. Chan Rotha, Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority

CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS



In March, in his capacity as Special Envoy, Prince Mired visited Sri Lanka where it encouraged Sri Lanka to promote the Convention and its norms among SAARC Members that have not yet joined. He also visited the Jaffna Rehabilitation Centre which provides services to landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities.



Serbia and Sri Lanka with the support of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, Chaired by Canada and members Algeria, Sweden and Thailand, held an individualized approach meeting to highlight to partners and stakeholders, its remaining challenges to implement the Convention and develop partnerships for faster completion.

In the margins of the 2018 intersessional meetings, Sudan briefed participants on its mine clearance completion in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea states, also known as Sudan Eastern States. Back in Sudan, local communities celebrated the news including with Kassala dancing. Congratulations to all partners who have made this possible. Photo right, courtesy UNMAS.





The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is a short reference to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, also known as the Ottawa Convention. It is the international community’s comprehensive response to the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines, indiscriminate weapons that last for decades after conflicts have ended.

The Convention was born from the human tragedy caused by mines in a number of countries throughout the world. In the early 1990s, non-governmental organisations working in war-torn countries brought the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines to the world’s attention.

After several regional conferences and a worldwide campaign to bring awareness and support for a comprehensive humanitarian ban on landmines, the Convention was adopted in Oslo, Norway on 18 September 1997. It opened for signature in Ottawa on 3 and 4 December 1997, at a ceremony that featured the participation of dozens of world leaders, and entered into force on 1 March 1999.

For their determination in calling for the Convention, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its co-ordinator Jody Williams were awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

At their Third Review Conference in 2014, the States Parties adopted at a high political level the Maputo +15 Declaration, committing to intensify efforts to promote universal adherence and observance of the Convention’s norms, destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines, address mined areas, assist mine victims and expressed their aspiration to meet their goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025. At the same Conference, States Parties further adopted the Maputo Action Plan 2014 – 2019 to guide their efforts.

Presidency of the Convention

In 2018, the Convention is presided by H.E. Suraya Dalil, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Switzerland and the UN in Geneva. Afghanistan sees that the Convention is not just about clearing mined areas but about committing to protect and ensure that landmine survivors are able to exercise their human rights and participate in society on an equal basis with others in their community.

Throughout 2018, the Convention President encouraged mine-affected and all other States to actively engage in partnerships to accelerate meeting the Convention’s aims. As the Presidency, Afghanistan also worked to promote the Convention among those States that have not yet joined, in particular with those in Central and South Asia.



Convention champions, ICBL Head of Delegation Steve Goose, Mary Wareham and former coordinator and 1997 Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams attending the 16MSP in Vienna.



4 The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

a What is the purpose of the Convention?

The purpose of the Convention is “to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines” through the pursuit of four core aims:

- universal acceptance of a ban on anti-personnel mines;
- destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines;
- clearance of mined areas; and,
- assistance to mine victims.

164 States have ratified or have acceded to the Convention. They include:

- most of the States that at one time used, stockpiled, produced or transferred anti-personnel mines;
- the vast majority of States that are or have been affected by anti-personnel mines;
- every State in the Americas, except Cuba and the United States;
- every State in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- every Member State of the European Union; and,
- the majority of ASEAN Member States.

How many countries have joined?

There are 33 States not party to the Convention, including one signatory State*:

Armenia	Israel	Micronesia, Federated	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	States of	Syrian Arab Republic
Bahrain	Korea, DPR of	Mongolia	Tonga
China	Korea, Republic of	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Myanmar	United States of America
Egypt	Lao PDR	Nepal	Uzbekistan
Georgia	Lebanon	Pakistan	Vietnam
India	Libya	Russian Federation	
Iran	Marshall Islands*	Saudi Arabia	



b What has been the Convention’s impact?

Use of anti-personnel mines has decreased dramatically – by ratifying or acceding to the Convention, 164 countries have agreed to not use anti-personnel mines. Most States not party adhere to the Convention’s norms.

Production has decreased significantly – 34 of 50 States that previously manufactured anti-personnel mines are now bound by the Convention’s ban on production. Most States not party have placed moratoria on production and / or transfers of mines.

The number of stockpiled mines has been significantly reduced – destruction of stockpiled mines is one of the Convention’s greatest success stories – together, the States Parties have destroyed more than 51.5 million mines; 159 States Parties no longer have stockpile destruction obligations under the Convention.

Millions of square metres of once dangerous land have been released for normal human activity – 30 of 61 States Parties that have reported mined areas have completed the task of clearing all such areas. Annual casualty rates have fallen significantly in many countries.

The Convention has served as a catalyst for drawing attention to the plight of landmine survivors – and hence the challenges of all persons with disabilities – in some of the world’s poorest countries. The Convention is the first arms control / disarmament instrument to take the needs of survivors into account. States Parties have agreed that victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks, including those related to the rights of persons with disabilities.



c What are the remaining challenges?

Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines (Article 4)

A State Party has four years after entry-into-force of the Convention for that State Party to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines it owns or possesses, or that are under its jurisdiction or control.

Together three States Parties still have approximately 5.1 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines to destroy.

State Party	Anti-personnel mines remaining to be destroyed	Article 4 projected completion date
Greece	640,761	By the end of September 2019
Oman	10,682	Within its Article 4 deadline (1 February 2019)
Ukraine	4,473,461	2021

Retaining anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes (Article 3)

There are 75 States Parties which have reported 149,562 anti-personnel mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques as permitted by Article 3 of the Convention.

A number of States Parties have not reported on the use or plans for the use of retained anti-personnel mines in accordance with the purposes permitted by Article 3, and/or have retained the same number of anti-personnel mines for a number of years.

4 The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Destroying anti-personnel mines in mined areas (Article 5)

A State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. Each State Party has ten years to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas and return these areas to a state for normal human activity. If a State Party is unable to do so in ten years, it may ask for an extension of its mine clearance deadline.

To date, 31 States Parties⁶ are still in the process of fulfilling their mine clearance.

State Party	Article 5 deadline
Afghanistan	1 March 2023
Angola	31 December 2025
Argentina	1 January 2020
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1 March 2021*
Cambodia	1 January 2020
Chad	1 January 2020
Chile	1 March 2020
Colombia	1 March 2021
Croatia	1 March 2026*
Cyprus	1 July 2022*
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 January 2021
Ecuador	31 December 2022
Eritrea	1 February 2020
Ethiopia	1 June 2020
Iraq	1 February 2028
Mauritania	1 January 2021
Niger	31 December 2020
Oman	1 February 2025
Peru	31 December 2024
Senegal	1 March 2021
Serbia	1 March 2023*
Somalia	1 October 2026
South Sudan	9 July 2021
Sudan	1 April 2023*
Tajikistan	1 April 2020
Thailand	31 October 2023
Turkey	1 March 2022
Ukraine	1 December 2021*
United Kingdom	1 March 2024*
Yemen	1 March 2020
Zimbabwe	31 December 2025

*Subject to 17MSP Decision

⁶Two States that have recently acceded to the Convention - Palestine and Sri Lanka may confirm that they have mine clearance obligations in their initial transparency report due under Article 7 of the Convention; should they do so, their Article 5 deadline would be 1 June 2028. In addition, Mozambique, since declaring completion in 2015, has indicated that four suspected areas remain underwater and that no intervention in these areas can be carried out at present.

Assisting the victims (Article 6.3)

Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration of mine victims and mine awareness programs.

Twenty nine (29) States Parties have indicated having a significant number – hundreds or thousands – of landmine survivors for which they must provide care.

States Parties that have indicated a significant number of landmine survivors

Afghanistan	Croatia	Jordan	Sudan
Albania	Democratic Republic of the	Mozambique	Tajikistan
Angola	Congo	Nicaragua	Thailand
Bosnia-Herzegovina	El Salvador	Peru	Uganda
Burundi	Eritrea	Senegal	Yemen
Cambodia	Ethiopia	Serbia	Zimbabwe
Chad	Guinea-Bissau	Somalia	
Colombia	Iraq	South Sudan	

Efforts continue towards ensuring that victim assistance is integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction, while ensuring that landmine victims receive the urgent support they require.

National implementation measures (Article 9)

Each State Party shall 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.

Sixty-one⁷ (61) States Parties have not yet reported having either adopted legislation or whether they consider existing laws to be sufficient. Some of these 61 States Parties have reported having drafted specific legislation which is pending adoption while others have reported that legislation is being considered but have not provided updated information on the status of legislations for a number of years.



⁷The 61 States Parties include two States that have recently acceded to the Convention, Palestine and Sri Lanka. Information on national implementation measures should be provided in their initial Article 7 report due 28 November 2018.



- February** **Fourth International Pledging Conference for Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Geneva**
- 1 March** **Twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention**
- 31 March** Deadline for States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in 2020 – Argentina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Tajikistan and Yemen - to submit requests for extensions, if necessary
- 30 April** Deadline for States Parties to submit Article 7 transparency reports covering calendar year 2018
- Deadline for Ecuador, Thailand and Zimbabwe to submit an updated Article 5 work plan to the States Parties
- 22-24 May** **2019 intersessional meetings, Geneva⁸**
- 24 May** **First preparatory meeting in advance of the Fourth Review Conference⁹**
- 18 September** Twenty-first anniversary of the adoption of the Convention
- Second preparatory meeting in advance of the Fourth Review Conference¹⁰**
- 25-29 November** **Fourth Review Conference, Oslo¹¹**
- Deadline for Iraq to submit an updated Article 5 work plan to the States Parties
- 3 December** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 3-4 December** **Twenty-second anniversary of the signing of the Convention**

⁸Subject to 17MSP approval.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.



Greetings from the Bosnia-Herzegovina National Stakeholder Dialogue, held in October in Sarajevo, hosted by BHMAC and sponsored by the European Union.

THIS PUBLICATION WAS PREPARED BY THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT

The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) is the secretariat to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The ISU is mandated to support the States Parties to the Convention, in particular by doing the following:

- Providing support to all States Parties through support to the Convention's implementation machinery and office holders,
- Providing support to individual States Parties, including by providing advice and technical support on implementation and universalization,
- Communicating and providing information about the Convention,
- Keeping records of formal and informal meetings under the Convention; and,
- Liaising and coordinating with relevant international organisations that participate in the work of the Convention.

The ISU is **directly accountable** to the States Parties while being hosted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. The ISU is funded on a **voluntary basis** by States Parties to the Convention.

*Front cover photo, Mine risk education in Afghanistan; courtesy MACCA.
Back cover photo, ISU archives: in 2006 a carpet weaver and landmine survivor,
was tasked with producing 600 handmade carpets for the 7MSP delegates.*



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