TWENTIETH MEETING
OF THE STATES PARTIES
GENEVA, 21-25 NOVEMBER 2022

Ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines
The Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) is the formal, diplomatic meeting of the 164 States that have accepted to be bound by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The 20MSP takes place mid-point of the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan under the presidency of Colombia, and on the year when the Convention commemorates 25 years since its adoption and signing.

Over 80% of the world’s States – including most that at one time used, stockpiled, produced, or transferred anti-personnel mines, and are or have been affected by anti-personnel mines – are now bound by the Convention. The vast majority of States not party abide by the global norm established by this humanitarian disarmament instrument. An important number of these States are attending the 20MSP as Observers.

Pursuing the purpose of the Convention

The Convention seeks “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. To achieve these aims, it is essential to facilitate compliance, cooperation and assistance, transparency and the exchange of information, and implementation support.

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<td>How useful was the sector-wide theory of change for mine action? Findings from our piloting – the pros, the cons, and the next steps</td>
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<td>25 years of the Convention, Jet d’eau Illumination and Launch of VA Global Conference in Cambodia Host: European Union Location: La Potinière</td>
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The Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties will be the first in-person formal meeting since the Oslo Review Conference. In 2021, due to extraordinary restrictions, the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) had to be held in full remote mode. The 19MSP was successfully carried out thanks to an agile, devoted team from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Bedankt Nederland!

Check out the video greeting here: https://twitter.com/i/status/1461775133010448397

On 3-4 December the Convention commemorates 25 years of its signing; date which coincides with the celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The Convention was the first instrument to take into consideration assistance to survivors and victims of the weapon in question (now a standard). Being that many survivors acquire a disability as a result of accidents caused by anti-personnel mines, it is widely agreed that their rights must be guaranteed, and needs met as part of efforts carried out in wider domains and related to the rights of persons with disabilities.

On this date, and always, let’s honour the human spirit that brought about this landmark humanitarian disarmament instrument, and the diversity and resilience of those whose lives have been affected by landmines.
Programme of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties

MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 13:00

1 Official opening
The meeting will be opened by the President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP), H.E. Alvaro Enrique Ayala Melendez, Ambassador and Chargé d’Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva.

2 Ceremonial opening
A ceremonial opening will feature brief messages including from high level representatives from the Government of Colombia, the United Nations, the Convention’s Special Envoy, the International Committee for the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Representatives of Mine Victims and Survivors and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

3 Adoption of the Agenda
The Meeting will be asked to adopt its agenda as contained in document APLC/MSP.20/2022/1, which was presented to delegations at the 20-22 June 2022 Intersessional Meetings.

4 Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Meeting
The Meeting will be asked to elect the eight outgoing members of the Committees as Vice-Presidents of the 20MSP: Algeria, Belgium, Chile, Ecuador, Japan, Spain, Sri Lanka, and Sudan.

5 Confirmation of the Secretary-General
The Meeting will be asked to confirm, as Secretary-General of the 20MSP, Ambassador Felix Baumann of Switzerland. Ambassador Felix Baumann will be invited to offer remarks as host country and Secretary-General of the 20MSP.

6 Organisation of work
The meeting will be asked to adopt its programme as contained in document APLC/MSP.20/2022/2, which was presented to delegations on 20-22 June 2022 Intersessional Meetings.

7 Thematic Panel: Deciphering the numbers: Status of Implementation
The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) is the Convention’s first five-year roadmap to contain indicators intended to measure progress in implementation of the Convention through 50 Actions. The President, Committees, and Implementation Support Unit have been tasked with tracking progress and challenges in OAP implementation. A baseline was established in 2020; progress against it is measure annually. Documents APLC/MSP.20/2022/12 and APLC/MSP.20/2022/13 (scan QR code), contain indicators submitted to the 20MSP.

With 2022 marking the halfway point of OAP implementation, the President, Committee Chairs, and gender focal point will report on progress, highlight strengths and weaknesses in implementation, and areas for prioritization until the Fifth Review Conference in 2024. States and organisations will be invited to take the floor.
Programme of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties

MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 15:00 – 16:00

8 General exchange of views

Delegations will be given the opportunity to deliver brief general statements not to exceed four (4) minutes. Interested delegations should contact the Implementation Support Unit, isu(at)apminebanconvention.org to be inscribed in the speakers’ list.

Given the volume of work that must be dealt with at the Twentieth Meeting, States Parties and Observers are encouraged to refrain from making general statements but rather provide updates on implementation on thematic matters indicated in agenda item 10. For those delegations that do not wish to deliver oral statements, written statements can be distributed and made available on the Convention’s website.

MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 16:00 – 18:00

9 Presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests

The meeting will consider requests for extensions of mine clearance deadlines that have been or are due to be submitted by Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, and Yemen.

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

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 13:00

9 Presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (continued)

10 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

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

States Parties implementing victim assistance activities will be invited to provide brief updates (4-5 minutes) on their efforts to fulfil Actions 33 through 41 of the Oslo Action Plan.

The following States Parties have reported carrying out victim assistance activities: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Palestine (State of), Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.
In addition, these States Parties will be invited to comment on the conclusions of the Committee on Victim Assistance. Other delegations may remark on these updates and share their views on victim assistance. States Parties are encouraged to inform on their efforts to mainstream gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER, 15:00 – 18:00

10 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

a) Assisting the victims: Conclusions and recommendations (continued)

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER, 18:00

Opening reception hosted by the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland and Colombia to the Conference on Disarmament, the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva.

The reception will be held at the International Committee of the Red Cross (more details to follow).

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 13:00

10 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 15:00 – 18:00

10 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

b) Clearing mined areas and mine risk education and reduction (continued)

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

The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance will present its conclusions and recommendations. In particular, the Committee will present its efforts to strengthen cooperation and assistance and implementation of Actions 42 to 47, the individualised approach, and on improving communication amongst States Parties.

Delegations will be given the opportunity to provide updates and share their views including on the conclusions of the Committee. States Parties are encouraged to inform on their efforts to mainstream gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 10:00 – 13:00

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

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 15:00 – 17:00

e) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

The President will present conclusions and recommendations on stockpile destruction. States Parties responsible for destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines as well as 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 with efforts made to avoid duplication with respect to updates provided at the Intersessional Meetings. Other delegations will be given the opportunity to remark on these updates and share their views.

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 their views on the Convention and provide updates on steps being taken or considered to accede to the Convention. Other delegations will be given the opportunity to provide updates on their efforts to encourage universal acceptance of the Convention and share their views.

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3 Sudan and Yemen.
4 Greece, Ukraine

(Clockwise) The Special Envoy and then-Convention President Ambassador Alicia Arango of Colombia met with Ambassadors of Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Azerbaijan, Marshall Islands, and Armenia in April in New York.
**g) Transparency and the exchange of information**

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

**THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 17:00 – 18:00**

**Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Adoption and Signing of the Convention**

Twenty-five (25) years have passed since the international community began the historic effort to create an international legally binding instrument banning anti-personnel mines. This effort culminated with the adoption and signing of the landmark Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction initially adopted by 122 countries. Since then, 84% of the world’s States, or 164, have undertaken to fulfil the ambition of a mine-free world and ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, for all people for all time.

This special session will spotlight the 25-year anniversary of the signing of the Convention and the landmark process that led to its adoption. It is an opportunity to reflect on the three decades of the anti-landmine movement – born of the understanding that anti-personnel mines are weapons that cannot differentiate war from peacetime, nor will spare maiming or killing a child innocently playing decades after a conflict has ended. This commemoration is also a momentous occasion to ask ourselves – *as a community* – what should be done to address emerging challenges.

**THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 18:30**

**Reception: Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the adoption and signing of the Convention; launch of Third Global Conference on Victim Assistance**

The iconic Jet d'eau (pressured water fountain) in Geneva will be illuminated in Convention colours to commemorate the 25 years of the adoption and signing of this landmark humanitarian instrument. Delegates are invited to the Jardin Anglais, in the city centre for a symbolic reception which will also serve as the occasion to launch the road to the Third Global Conference on Victim Assistance to take place in October 2023, in Cambodia.

A bus from the Geneva public transportation system will be available to take 50 delegates. The reception and launch will take place at La Potinière, Promenade du Lac 2, 1204 Genève. More details to come.

In September, the President held a special session to remember the process that led to the adoption of the Convention in Oslo, and discuss the challenges the Convention faces.

(Clockwise) Norway, ICBL, ICRC, Germany, Paralympian skier, and ICBL Ambassador.
8 General exchange of views (continued)

10 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

h) Implementation Support

i. Report on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU and presentation of a work plan and a budget for the 2023 activities of the ISU

In adopting a work plan for the ISU, the Fourth Review Conference called for it to be subject to a mid-term review to be presented to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties. The President will therefore present the mid-term review of the five-year work plan developed in coordination with the ISU and the Coordinating Committee.

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

The Director of the ISU will present the work plan and the budget for the activities of the ISU in 2023, and the Meeting will be asked to approve these documents. The Director of the ISU will report on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU, present the 2021 ISU audit report and preliminary financial report for 2022. The Meeting will be asked to approve the report on the activities and finances of the ISU and the 2021 audited financial statement. Delegations will be given the opportunity to provide comments and/or share their views.

ii. Other matters concerning implementation support

The Meeting will be asked to agree on the dates of the 2023 Intersessional Meetings.

In keeping with its mandate, in 2022 the 20MSP President undertook the task of consulting with States Parties to identify a list of nominees to serve as new Committee members following the 20MSP. On 29 April 2022, the President wrote to all States Parties to indicate that it was seeking two new States Parties for each of the four Committees for two-year terms. On the basis of interest expressed, the President has developed a proposal listing of States Parties to serve as new Committee members from the end of the 20MSP for a two-year term.

If this proposal is agreed to by the 20MSP, the following eight new States Parties would start their two-year membership term at the end of the 20MSP:

- **Committee on Article 5 Implementation:**
  - (new members) **Colombia and Sweden**, to join France and Iraq

- **Committee on Cooperative Compliance:**
  - (new members) **Norway and South Africa**, to join Switzerland and Turkey

- **Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance:**
  - (new members) **Algeria and Japan**, to join the Netherlands and Thailand

- **Committee on Victim Assistance:**
  - (new members) **Slovenia and Zambia**, to join Italy and Uganda

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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.
**Programme of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties**

11 Status of assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention

The status of assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties will be presented and delegations will be given the opportunity to provide comments and views on the assessed contributions. The 19MSP requested the President of the 20MSP to continue to consult on matters related to financial predictability and sustainability of United Nations assessed contributions with a view of submitting a proposal for adoption at the 20MSP.

Following consultations on a draft proposal and a request for input sent to all States Parties on 12 July 2022, the President will present the proposed decision on the financial predictability and sustainability of United Nations’ assessed contribution for adoption by the 20MSP.

**FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER, 15:00 – 18:00**

12 Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

The Meeting will be asked to take decisions on the request for extended mine clearance deadlines which will have been or may be submitted by Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, and Yemen. ([Documents here](#)).

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

14 Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8

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

The Meeting will be asked to agree that the Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament of Germany to the United Nations in Geneva H.E. Thomas Göbel be elected to preside over the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP).

16 Duration and matters pertaining to the preparation for the 21MSP and Fifth Review Conference

The Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties agreed that the 21MSP would take place in Geneva, Switzerland the week of 20-24 November 2023.

17 Any other business

Delegations will be given the opportunity to take the floor on matters not otherwise covered.

18 Consideration and adoption of the final document

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

19 Closure of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties

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6 A decision was taken at the Fourth Review Conference to continue to include in the agenda of the annual Meetings of the States Parties an agenda item on the “Status of assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention.”
Victim Assistance Experts Meeting
ROOM: XXI
HOST: Committee on Victim Assistance

The Committee on Victim Assistance, Algeria (Chair), Ecuador, Italy, and Uganda with support of the Implementation Support Unit will host a Victim Assistance Experts Meeting (VAEM) on rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation is one of the six key pillars of victim assistance in the framework of the Convention and key commitment (Action 38) of the Oslo Action Plan, which calls to “take steps to ensure that, taking into account local, national and regional circumstances, all mine victims, including in rural and remote areas, have access to comprehensive rehabilitation services and psychological and psychosocial support services, including through the provision of outreach rehabilitation service, where necessary, while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable. This includes the provision of assistive devices, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and peer-to-peer support programs.”

The objective of the 2022 VA Experts Meeting is to enhance understandings on rehabilitation, and the challenges, gaps and shortcomings faced in delivering quality rehabilitation services in an efficient, affordable, and sustainable manner.

The meeting will build on the “Thematic Panel and Discussion: Fostering Cooperation for Rehabilitation” hosted by the VA Committee during the 2022 Intersessional Meetings. Sessions include Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), national capacity and ownership in rehabilitation, among other topics. National VA experts will join peers working in international and non-governmental organisations.

Contact: f.alizada(at)apminebanconvention.org
Monday 21 November to Thursday 24 November

Exhibitions

MINE FREE WORLD HUB
HOST: ICBL

The exhibit is a timeline documenting the past three decades and the partnership between civil society, Governments, ICRC, and UN organisations towards the creation of the Mine Ban Treaty, and its universalization/implementation. Throughout the week short calls to be organized with campaigners/survivors from around the world to exchange with 20MSP participants, on their work on the ground and how this relates to the discussions happening in Geneva.

HOME AFTER WAR: A VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE
HOST: GICHD

Through the Home After War Virtual Reality (VR) experience, users are transported to Fallujah, Iraq with Ahmaied Hamad Khalaf and his family, as they return to their home in 2017. Although the conflict was over, the city was still unsafe, with one looming fear; improvised explosive devices (IEDs) hidden in homes and city infrastructure.

FINISH THE JOB PLEDGE
HOST: Mine Action Canada

Delegates are offered the opportunity to share how they are going to help finish the job on landmines on a sticker and attach them to a poster.

Side Events

MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER
13:05 – 14:50 (CET)

HOST: The Netherlands (MFA) and the United Kingdom (FCDO)
Room: XXI

This event will showcase findings from piloting the sector wide Theory of Change Toolkit in Angola, Lebanon, Ukraine, Libya, and Afghanistan. Drawing on the experiences of stakeholders engaged, we will share lessons learnt and how these lessons influenced changes to the toolkit. The event will share how the experiences of using the toolkit differed in the distinct country contexts.

This includes the challenges of overcoming perceptions, the difficulties of working with implementers and donors at different stages of the programme cycle and the advantages of using a global theory of change and a common set of indicators. This event will conclude our three-part engagement with the sector, drawing on support from the Netherlands, the UK, and the support of wider stakeholders.

Contact: lucas.daalhuisen(at)minbuza.nl

LANDMINE MONITOR 2022: DELEGATES’ BRIEFING
HOST: Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor/ICBL-CMC
ROOM: XVIII

Landmine Monitor experts will discuss progress made and remaining challenges in achieving the Mine Ban Treaty’s ultimate objective of a mine free world.

The event will look at recent use of antipersonnel mines, efforts to universalize and fully implement the treaty globally. It will also provide an overview of efforts to address the impact of mine contamination and casualties and global trends in international assistance to mine action and available national resource.

Contact: Monitor2(at)icblcmc.org
TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER
09:00 – 09:55 (CET)

YOUTH ACTION FOR UNIVERSALIZATION AND COMPLETION
HOST: Mines Action Canada
ROOM: XXI

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Ottawa Treaty, Mines Action Canada’s Mine Action Fellows will share the work they are doing in their home communities to support universalization of the treaty and its full implementation.

Join us to learn how young people are working to create a mine free world in their lifetime and how states can collaborate with them to make progress.

Contact: Gillian(at)minesactioncanada.org

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER
13:05 – 14:50 (CET)

EXPLORING NEW GROUNDS
HOST: European Union
ROOM: XXI

Implementing parties including Cambodia, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Sudan, Zimbabwe, as well as the ICBL and Paralympian skier Nijaz Memic will provide first-hand accounts, preliminary gains obtained, and challenges encountered in activities undertaken and/or plans for upcoming stakeholder Dialogues under the new project sponsored by the European Union.

Via video, the Convention’s Special Envoy will speak of his recent universalization engagement. The briefing will have interpretation to/from Arabic, English, French, and Spanish and will be hybrid.

Contact: s.gyrup(at)apminebanconvention.org

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER
09:00 – 09:55 (CET)

VICTIM ASSISTANCE EXPERTS MEETING, SIDE EVENTS, AND EXHIBITS

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER
09:00 – 09:55 (CET)

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN MINE ACTION
HOST: The HALO Trust
ROOM: XVIII

Across HALO’s workforce, 97 per cent of staff come from the communities we serve. Many of the women HALO recruits are empowered by newfound status, skills and income and often become agents of change in their communities. Building on a recent study evaluating gender and operational efficiency, this side event will share observations on the impact childcare support initiatives have had to date on recruiting and retaining the female workforce.

At the half-way point of the Oslo Action Plan, it is timely to evaluate what next steps need to be taken, both by operators and the international community to ensure that the needs and perspectives of women are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes.

Contact: kim.feldewerth(at)halotrust.org

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER
13:05 – 14:50 (CET)

COOPERATION FOR COMPLETION OF THE HUMANITARIAN DEMINING PROCESS IN ECUADOR AND PERU
Host: Permanent Missions of Ecuador and Peru to the United Nations at Geneva
ROOM: XXI

After the signing of the Brasilia Peace Agreements of 1998, Ecuador and Peru began a fruitful binational cooperation in humanitarian demining in line with the obligations of both countries pursuant to the Convention and with the objective of eradicating antipersonnel mines in the border area under the principle of joint responsibility. Operations in the respective territories began in 2000. Since then, both countries have closely collaborated in confidence-building measures and good practices, joint training, capacity building, information exchange and knowledge sharing all of which has been widely recognised by the international community as a great example of South-South and regional cooperation.

Today, both countries are close to completion of their respective demining obligations. However, the budgetary situation and the COVID-19 pandemic have hit both economies hard. Ecuador has requested an extension of its Article 5 mine clearance deadline until 2025 and Peru has a deadline of December 2024 to clear its minefields. The side event will discuss the cooperation undertaken by both countries during more than two decades, and the challenges remaining to achieve the total elimination of anti-personnel mines from their territories within the established deadlines.

Contact: jstacey(at)cancilleria.gob.ec, ahorna(at)onuperuginebra.ch
WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER
13:05 – 14:50 (CET)

REMOTE IMAGING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MINE ACTION: WHEN IS GOOD, GOOD ENOUGH?
Host: International Committee of the Red Cross
ROOM: XVIII

The pairing of non-technical and technical survey with remote imaging and artificial intelligence has the potential to make survey more effective and cost efficient by making it quicker and lowering the false alarm rate. But what levels of detection and false alarm are acceptable?

This side event will discuss the current state of research in these areas and recent field tests conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Jordan’s National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation. Other mine action operators and experts in AI research will also participate.

Contact: hnakhuda(at)icrc.org

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER
13:05 – 14:50 (CET)

INVESTING IN ACTION: NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN MINE ACTION
Host: ICBL-CMC
ROOM: XXI

Increasingly, the international mine action community is focusing on the need for comprehensive and complementary efforts interlinked with peace, security, and development goals. In this event, ICBL-CMC Investing in Action Programme participants will showcase their diverse contributions to national efforts; from victim assistance and socio-economic integration, to risk education, and advocacy.

Participants will share experiences from a range of mine-affected countries including Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Serbia, and Uganda illustrating the unique value added and sustainability in mine action, that local partners bring to the table. A representative of Germany will provide opening remarks. The meeting will be moderated by the ICBL-CMC Investing in Action Programme.

Contact: info(at)icbl.org

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER
13:05 – 14:50 (CET)

SOUTH SUDAN: INDIVIDUALISED APPROACH EVENT
Host: National Mine Action Authority of South Sudan and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
ROOM: XVIII

The Individualised Approach, established in 2016 aims to provide a platform for affected states parties to provide detailed individualised information on the technical, equipment, scientific, human, and financial challenges it faces, its response and needs with the aim of fulfilling the remaining obligations of the Convention in an effective and expedient way.

The event will provide an opportunity for South Sudan to connect with other state representatives, the donor community, (including possible partners for South-South or regional cooperation), mine action operators, and other relevant stakeholders.

Contact: isu(at)apminebanconvention.org

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER
09:00 – 09:55 (CET)

CHALLENGES OF HUMANITARIAN DEMINING – PARTNERSHIPS AND INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS
Host: Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)
ROOM: XXI

ANAMA intends to highlight challenges it faces in the course of humanitarian demining operations and activities of the Agency to boost national demining capacity in mines and ERW clearance in the post-conflict period.

It will dwell on the role of partnerships in strengthening the national capacity in devising integrated and innovative solutions. The briefing will also touch upon Azerbaijan’s approach to humanitarian demining as a pre-condition for reconstruction and development and an essential link to SDGs. A short power-point presentation will be accessible.

Contact: Samir.poladov(at)anama.gov.az
The 25 years of the Convention also coincide with the anniversaries of other organisations, closely linked to the Convention. Congratulations GICHD, Humanity and Inclusion, ICBL, UNMAS on your anniversaries!

**CRITICALLY INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION IN CAUCA, COLOMBIA**

**Host:** Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

**Room:** XXI

Through the eyes of two members from conflict-affected communities of Cajibio and Corinto, HI will share the experience of how a people-centred and conflict-sensitive approach to community liaison enabled a comprehensive mine action intervention to bring about transformative changes that eased tensions related to land tenure between farmers and indigenous people.

EO contamination and the fear of living amid armed groups had contributed to a loss in their way of life, increasing their vulnerability and heightening tensions over limited resources. Extensive participatory approaches to community liaison informed priority setting for clearance and collective productive initiatives. Instead of continuing to grow illicit crops, the decision was taken to produce panela (sugar blocks extracted from sugar cane), and in doing so, traditional customs were preserved. This changed previously strained relationships between the two groups and after years of violence and cultural differences, they are now learning to live together in the same territory and to work for the collective good, convinced that this will bring peace and a better life for future generations.

Contact: e.hottentot(at)hi.org
In Memoriam

As the Convention commemorates 25 years of existence, it is important to pause and acknowledge all those who have fallen and continue to fall victim of anti-personnel mines. We also pause to remember some faces of the Convention. The making of a mine-free world and guaranteeing the rights of mine victims everywhere takes committed individuals. These are some of those to whom we thank, and say goodbye.

As Director of Algeria’s National Demining Programme Colonel Ahcène Gherabi was a familiar face in the Convention community. His efforts towards the elimination of anti-personnel mines contributed to declaring Algeria “mine free” in 2017. Colonel Gherabi will be greatly missed.

The Sudanese National Mine Action Centre is also remembering its former Director, General Amir Abdelsadiq. Photo top right, the General with his colleague Colonel Gherabi at the symbolic signing of the Convention’s 20th anniversary.

Ambassador Papa Omar led the Senegalese Mine Action Centre until retirement. In 2018, he took a break from retirement to assist the Centre with a national stakeholder dialogue on mine clearance in Dakar.

South African Bishop Desmond Tutu joined the global movement calling for a total ban on anti-personnel mines. At left, Bishop Tutu at the African Union conference on landmines in Kempton Park. Below, part of one of his reflections for spiritual practice.

“...I was collecting sticks for the fire when I lost my arms
I was taking the goats to water when I lost my feet.
I have a head, but my head does not understand why
there are landmines in the grazing land, or
why there is a tripwire across the dusty road to the market...“

This year marked the 25th anniversary since the death of Princess Diana, a fierce advocate of the rights of those maimed by anti-personnel mines. Princess Diana died only days before negotiations for the Convention began in Oslo.
At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties adopted the Oslo Declaration on a Mine-Free World, committing to among others, intensify efforts to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines, assist mine victims, promote universal adherence and observance of the Convention’s norms, and address mined areas to the fullest extent possible by 2025. To guide these efforts, the States Parties adopted the Oslo Action Plan 2020–2024.

Find the Action Plan, Oslo Declaration, Convention Text, and work of the Convention’s machinery scanning the QR code at right, or https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/resources/publications/. The publication exists in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

**Status of universalization**

**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, with the exception of two;
- every State in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- every Member State of the European Union;
- ten (10) of the 15 Members of the UN Security Council; and,
- the majority of ASEAN Member States.

Since 2017, there have been no new adherents to the Convention. The following 33 States are not yet party*:

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

* Of the States that signed the Convention, the Republic of the Marshall Islands is the only one that has not yet ratified it. While it has not yet formally accepted the obligations of the Convention, in accordance with Article 18 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the Republic of the Marshall Islands is obliged to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of Conventions that it has signed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Eight International Pledging Conference, Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Twenty-fourth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Final date for States Parties to submit for consideration of the 21MSP if necessary, requests to extend their mine clearance deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>International Day for Mine Action and Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>Deadline for States Parties to submit Article 7 transparency reports and updated Work Plans if need be</td>
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<tr>
<td>May (tbd)</td>
<td>2023 Intersessional Meetings, Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 September</td>
<td>Twenty-sixth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention in Oslo</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-24 November</td>
<td>Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4 December</td>
<td>Twenty-sixth anniversary of the signing of the Convention</td>
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*Subject to 20MSP approval.*
The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) is 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 including by

- Providing advice and technical support on implementation and universalization
- Providing support to the Convention’s office holders;
- Communicating on behalf of the President and States Parties, and providing information about the Convention;
- Keeping records of formal and informal meetings under the Convention; and,
- Liaising and coordinating with relevant international and non-governmental organisations that participate in the work of the Convention

The ISU is funded **on a voluntary basis** by the States Parties and **directly accountable** to them. The ISU is hosted at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining thanks to support provided by **Switzerland**.

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