



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

President's corner

On International Mine Action Day, the Convention President H.E. Hans Brattskar Ambassador of Norway to the UN Geneva, spoke on the Convention's relevance as a disarmament and protection instrument. The talk with University of Geneva students was organised by UNMAS and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, moderated by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and counted with the voice and expertise of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).



In April, Norway hosted a meeting in Amman, Jordan with the Convention Special Envoy HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al Hussein, Humanity and Inclusion, HALO Trust and UNMAS to discuss the importance of being a #ConsistentPartner and how sustained and predictable funding in mine action can accelerate meeting Convention goals.



ICRC continues its important role in promoting the Convention and its **norms** among States not party. Universalization is also a priority for Norway during its presidency. Earlier this year, ICRC held a seminar in Mongolia, with Norway's support.

On 29-30 April, Norway supports ICRC in co-hosting a universalization workshop in Lao PDR.



Oslo Review Conference on a Mine-Free World

On 3 April, Norway hosted an informal meeting on preparations for the Fourth Review Conference.

Norway is highly encouraging input from all Convention stakeholders in the drafting process --now underway-- of the three substantive documents of the Review Conference. This is particularly important as they will guide States Parties' efforts for the next 5 years until 2024.

The President is also accepting letters of interest to fill the various positions in the Convention Committees.

Reach the Convention's Presidency:
mineban@mfa.no.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 9-12 April the Convention Chair met with various mine action stakeholders to encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue its survey and clearance efforts to meet its commitments under the Convention as soon as possible. The visit included a visit to the Global Training Centre for Mine Detection Dogs of Norwegian People's Aid. Photo, NPA.



Croatia

The "Sixteenth International Symposium on Mine Action" took place 8-11 April 2019 in Slano, Croatia with participation of various mine action actors and the Convention President. Topics of the symposium included migration and mine action, new technologies and applying lessons learnt for more efficient mine clearance such as in forested areas.



Marshall Islands

Marshall Islands, the only signatory State which has not yet ratified the Convention, has opened its first representation before the UN in Geneva. The Convention President whose mandate includes universalization, met with the new Permanent Representative in Geneva, H.E. Doreen Debrum. We look forward to seeing Marshall Islands participating in Convention meetings in the future!



Upcoming deadlines

- The following States Parties have Article 5 deadlines in 2020; some of them have submitted requests to extend their deadlines:
 - [Argentina \(submitted\)](#)
 - [Cambodia \(submitted\)](#)
 - [Chad \(submitted\)](#)
 - [Chile](#)
 - [Eritrea](#)
 - [Ethiopia \(submitted\)](#)
 - [Tajikistan \(submitted\)](#)
 - [Yemen \(submitted\)](#)
- **30 April:** Article 7 transparency reports are due!

ERITREA



On 17 April, Mozambique as Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance represented by Jaime Chissano from the Permanent Mission of Mozambique to UN Geneva, together with the ISU, met with H.E. Adem Osman Idris, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to discuss matters related to reporting on victim assistance and mine clearance under the Convention.

Highlight: Between December 2003 and July 2004, [Argentina](#), [Belgium](#), [El Salvador](#), [Mauritania](#), [Mauritius](#), [Moldova](#), [Namibia](#), [Romania](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Slovenia](#), [Slovakia](#), [Tajikistan](#), [Tanzania](#), [Thailand](#), [Uruguay](#) and [Zambia](#) declared completion of their Article 4 (stockpile destruction) obligation. What a great eight months for disarmament!



What does the Convention's Article 9 say?

"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."

Senegal

Humanity and Inclusion (HI) has relaunched mine clearance activities in the Casamance region. Contamination in Senegal affects roads, country lanes and farmland, vital sources of income for the region's inhabitants. HI teams plan to demine 70,000 square metres of land (the equivalent of 10 football fields) where some 22,500 people live. Congratulations to all partners that seek to make Senegal mine-free by 2025. [Find the full story here](#). Photo, HI.



Netherlands

"The Ottawa Convention [...] shows the transformational power that international norms can have. For more than two decades, the States Parties to this convention have vowed never to use anti-personnel mines and committed themselves to the eradication of these mines and explosive remnants of war."

Netherlands' Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation H.E. Sigrid Kaag, during the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.



Switzerland

Have you seen the Swiss Army's [video](#) featuring the Confederation's efforts to support international disarmament instruments, and the successes and remaining challenges in mine action? Find more information on Switzerland's mine action strategy on the longer version of the video [here](#).



United Kingdom

The Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office announced that Phase 5 of mine clearance at Falkland Islands (Malvinas) will conclude in 2020 according to plan.

Photo, [@SMcDonaldFCO](#) on Twitter.



Cambodia



More than a thousand people commemorated the **20 year anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention**, in a gathering in Siem Reap. Ou Phanna, an up and coming Cambodian sculptor and landmine survivor talked to ICBL Ambassador Tun Channaret (seen here right) on her challenging experience, rehabilitation and support. Long-time Convention advocate, the Jesuit Refugee Service supported this event. Find the full story [here](#). Photo, JSR.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has updated its national mine action strategy to help steer its efforts to achieve a mine-free ambition within the next couple of years. The strategy presented in Colombo is the result of Sri Lanka's work with partners including the GICHD. Photo, GICHD.



Colombia



On 4 April Colombia declared 75 municipalities and 2 Departments (Quindío and Magdalena) free of all known mine, ERW and IED contamination. With these, there are now more than 346 municipalities declared free of all known contamination.

Congratulations to all partners that continue to undertake efforts to release land back for its regular use. Find the full story in Spanish [here](#). Photo, [Descontamina Colombia](#).



South Sudan

South Sudan, one of 30 States Parties having declared a significant number of landmine survivors, will soon host a national victim assistance and disability stakeholder dialogue in Juba thanks to support provided by the European Union and other stakeholders including the UN Mine Action Services (UNMAS).

Landmines and other explosive remnants of war have caused grave suffering and left a significant number of casualties in South Sudan. At least 5.1% of the population are persons with disabilities including landmine survivors. This group faces great challenges including lack of access to specialized services such as rehabilitation, psychosocial support, employment, and education.



The Jordanian National Commission for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) is already at work in Amman preparing for the Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and other Explosive Remnants of War, and Disability Rights. **Fostering Partnerships** will be chaired by HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, President of the Jordanian Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The conference will take place 10-12 September 2019 in Amman, with participation of dozens of victim assistance and disability rights experts including the World Health Organization, International Labour Organization, ICRC, HI, and the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

More info,
<http://bit.ly/fostering-partnerships>

Statement by the Spokesperson on 4 April

“ With all its Member States being parties to the Convention, the EU is strongly united in banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. The Convention is an example of what the EU stands for: a rules-based international order, rooted in the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. This is why we urge countries that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention.

In view of the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention that will take place in Oslo in November this year, the EU together with its Member States will prepare a united position aiming at a strong political message for a mine-free world by 2025 and a concrete action plan on how to achieve this ambitious objective.”

[Full statement here](#)

Uganda dialogue on victim assistance and disability



Uganda, one of 30 States Parties with a significant number of landmine survivors held a national dialogue to kick start the process to develop a new national action plan on disability. [Check out this 3-min video](#) to find out what happened at the EU-sponsored dialogue hosted by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with participation of the Convention’s Presidency, ICBL and Humanity and Inclusion.



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