Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

7 June 2019

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First Preparatory Meeting
Geneva, 24 May 2019

Procedural report

Introduction

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction provides in Article 12, paragraph 1 that "a Review Conference shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations five years after the entry into force of the Convention" and that "further Review Conferences shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations if so requested by one or more States Parties, provided that the interval between Review Conferences shall in no case be less than five years."

2. The 2014 Third Review Conference agreed that the Fourth Review Conference will be held at the end of 2019, as stipulated in the Final document of the Conference (APLC/CONF/2014/4, paragraph 31).

3. The Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties agreed to hold the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo, Norway, the week of 25 to 29 November 2019 and to hold preparatory meetings in advance of the Fourth Review Conference in Geneva on 24 May 2019 and on 18 September 2019. Furthermore, the Seventeenth Meeting agreed to elect Ambassador Hans Brattskar, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office in Geneva, President of the Fourth Review Conference.

Organization of the First Preparatory Meeting

4. The First Preparatory Meeting was opened on 24 May 2019 and presided over by Ambassador Hans Brattskar, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office in Geneva, President of the Fourth Review Conference.

5. The First Preparatory Meeting adopted its agenda as contained in document APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/1, as orally amended.

Participation in the First Preparatory Meeting

6. The following States Parties participated in the Meeting: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational

State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Holy See, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

7. The following States participated in the Meeting as observers, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Meeting: Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, and United States of America.

8. In accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the rules of procedure, the following international organizations and institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as observers: European Union, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

9. In accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure, the following other organizations attended the Meeting as observers: Mines Advisory Group (MAG), The HALO Trust.

Work of the First Preparatory Meeting

10. The First Preparatory Meeting held one plenary meeting on 24 May 2019.

11. The Meeting considered the draft agenda for the Fourth Review Conference, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/2, the organization of the Fourth Review Conference, as well as the designations of Vice Presidents of the Fourth Review Conference.

12. The Meeting considered the Concept note on Fourth Review Conference substantive documents, submitted by the President, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/3. The Meeting also considered the draft Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 2014-2019, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/WP.1. States Parties and observers exchanged views and provided input for the development of these documents. The President expressed his appreciation for the constructive suggestions that would assist in further developing and strengthening the draft documents for consideration by the Fourth Review Conference.

13. The Meeting heard a summary from the President of the Fourth Review Conference on the informal thematic discussions held on 23 May 2019 to inform and provide impetus towards the development of a strong action plan.

14. The Meeting received updates from the host country, Norway, on logistical and administrative matters. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction with the state of preparations, taking note, in particular, that an opening ceremony will be held in the afternoon of 25 November 2019.

15. The Meeting considered the status of the assessed contributions to the Fourth Review Conference. The Meeting noted with concern the financial situation due to late payment and arrears of assessed contributions and underlined the importance of ensuring full compliance with Article 14 obligations.

16. The Meeting received an update from the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme. The Meeting noted that ensuring broad and diverse participation in the Fourth Review Conference was in the interest of all and that hearing from all States Parties on the implementation of the Convention is critical.

Decisions and recommendations

17. The Meeting took note of the Concept note on Fourth Review Conference substantive documents submitted by the President, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/3 and expressed general satisfaction that its content would provide useful direction to the on-going efforts to develop the review of the general status and operation of the Convention, an Oslo Action Plan covering the five-year period following the Fourth Review Conference, and a political declaration.

18. The Meeting took note of the thematic discussions held on 23 May 2019 to inform and provide impetus towards the development of the Oslo Action Plan.

19. The Meeting considered and approved the Draft Agenda for the Fourth Review Conference, as contained in document APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/2, and recommended it for adoption by the Fourth Review Conference. The Meeting also confirmed the Rules of Procedure, as contained in APLC/CONF/2009/3.

20. The Meeting recommended that, in keeping with the practice used previously in formal meetings, the outgoing members of the Convention's Committees should serve as Vice Presidents of the Fourth Review Conference, namely: Belgium, Colombia, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Thailand and Zambia.

21. In the context of considering the financial status of assessed contributions to the Fourth Review Conference, the Meeting called upon the States Parties and States not party participating in the meetings of the States Parties to the Convention to ensure prompt and full payment of their respective assessed contributions and strict compliance with their obligations pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention.

22. The Meeting noted the need for States Parties in a position to do so to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme in 2019 in order to ensure the broadest possible participation in the Fourth Review Conference.

23. The Meeting took note of the interest of Sudan to preside over the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) in 2020. The Meeting took note of the proposal to hold the 18MSP during the week of 23 November 2020.

24. The Meeting took note of the interest expressed by the Netherlands to host and preside over the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021.

Documentation

25. A list of documents of the First Preparatory Meeting is contained in the annex to this report. These documents are available through the United Nations Official Documents System (http://documents.un.org).

Adoption of the Procedural Report of the First Preparatory Meeting

26. The Meeting adopted its draft procedural report, as contained in document APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/CRP.1, as orally amended.

Annex

List of documents

Symbol	*Title*
APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/1	Provisional Agenda. Submitted by the President
APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/2	Draft Agenda for the Fourth Review Conference. Submitted by the President
APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/3	Concept note on Fourth Review Conference substantive documents. Submitted by the President
APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/4	Procedural report
APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/WP.1	Draft Review of the Operation and the Status of the Convention 2014-2019
APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/CRP.1	Draft procedural report. Submitted by the Secretariat
APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/INF.1	List of participants
APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/MISC.1	Provisional List of participants
APLC/CONF/2019/PM.1/MISC.2	Explanation of Position on the “State of Palestine”. Submitted by Australia, Canada, Germany and Netherlands