

**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**

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the operation and status of the Convention**

**Draft review of the operation and status of the  
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,  
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-  
personnel Mines and on their destruction:  
2014-2019**

**Transparency and the exchange of information and  
Implementation support**

**Submitted by the President of the Fourth Review Conference\***

**I. Transparency and the exchange of information**

1. At the Third Review Conference, the States Parties recognised that transparency and the open exchange of information, through both formal and informal mechanisms under the Convention and other informal means, are essential to achieving the Convention's aims. The States Parties also recognised that dialogue informed by accurate and high-quality information can support cooperation and assistance and accelerate the Convention's implementation.

2. The States Parties have recalled that the submission of Article 7 transparency reports is an obligation for all States Parties. This is particularly important for States Parties in the process of destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4, for those States Parties in the process of clearing mined areas in accordance with Article 5, for those States Parties that are retaining anti-personnel mines for purposes permitted by Article 3, for those with a responsibility for a high number of survivors and for those that are in the process of implementing Article 9.

3. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the States Parties adopted a Guide to Reporting<sup>1</sup> to support the reporting efforts of the States Parties and improve the quantity and quality of reporting. Since the establishment of the Guide to Reporting, improvements in the quality of reports have been seen. The States Parties have reemphasized the benefits that could be obtained in applying the "Guide to reporting" and encouraged its use by the

\* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

<sup>1</sup> Guide to Reporting: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/14MSP/14MSP-Guide-toReporting-30Oct2015.pdf>.



States Parties in implementing their Article 7 obligations.<sup>2</sup> Since the Third Review Conference, 20 of the 32 States Parties implementing Article 5 that submitted reports employed all or elements of the Guide to Reporting. The Committees on Article 5 Implementation and Victim Assistance of the Convention have continued encouraging States to employ the Guide to Reporting to ensure clarity on the status of implementation.

4. On 18 February 2016, the Committee on Victim Assistance convened an *Informal Discussion on Reporting on Victim Assistance Commitments under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*. Observing that reporting on victim assistance commitments under the Maputo Action Plan may be complex, the Committee sought to offer a platform for States Parties to discuss challenges reported on the implementation of Actions 12-14 of the Maputo Action Plan, and opportunities to overcome these challenges. At the meeting, the Committee also noted a call from States Parties to consider simplifying victim assistance reporting methods across relevant disarmament conventions.

5. As a result of consultations, the Committee on Victim Assistance developed the *Guidance on Victim Assistance Reporting* which aims to support States Parties in providing comprehensive information on progress in implementing their victim assistance commitments, as well as highlighting the synergies of reporting with different international instruments concerning victims of exploded ordnance, disability and human rights. Since the Third Review Conference, almost half of the relevant States Parties have submitted comprehensive reports on victim assistance.

6. At the Third Review Conference, it was agreed that all States Parties will provide high quality and updated information annually, as required by the Convention, and provide additional information in a voluntary manner. At the close of the Third Review Conference, all 161 States Parties that had ratified or acceded to the Convention had submitted initial transparency information in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention had done so. The only exceptions were Oman and Tuvalu. Since the Third Review Conference, Oman submitted its initial transparency report, as did two additional States that acceded to the Convention – State of Palestine and Sri Lanka. Thus, all States but Tuvalu have submitted an initial transparency report as required.

7. At the Third Review Conference, it was also agreed that “States Parties without implementation obligations will make use of the simplified tools for fulfilling their Article 7 obligations.” In 2019, of the 45 States Parties without implementation obligations, 13 made use of the simplified tool for fulfilling their Article 7 obligations.

8. Since the Third Review Conference, the overall reporting rate has been below 50 percent. However, among mine-affected countries implementing core obligations of the Convention, reporting rates have increased. The States Parties have noted that an online reporting tool option, as proposed by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, may support States Parties in their reporting efforts.

9. Since the Third Review Conference, greater attention has been given by the States Parties to the importance of ensuring the collection of disaggregated data by sex and age and ensuring that the data is employed to inform programming in all areas of implementation. In the majority of cases, States Parties submitting reports under Article 7 have submitted information disaggregated by gender and age, in particular when it comes to mine victims and mine risk education beneficiaries.

10. Since the Third Review Conference, States Parties have agreed that renewed attention will need to be given to the ongoing fulfilment of transparency obligations. The Committees of the Convention have all indicated the importance of transparency and the exchange of information for the fulfilment of their mandates. The Committees have focused part of its work on promoting improvements and the strengthening of transparency and exchange of information by States Parties.

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<sup>2</sup> Final Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties  
[https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Final\\_Report\\_Fifteenth\\_Meeting\\_of\\_the\\_States\\_Parties\\_-\\_English.pdf](https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Final_Report_Fifteenth_Meeting_of_the_States_Parties_-_English.pdf)

## II. Implementation support

### Implementation Support Unit

11. The Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties adopted a number of measures to strengthen the financial governance and transparency of the ISU. Some of the important measures taken include the adoption of a multi-annual work plan for the ISU, establishment of a financial security buffer, the establishment of an annual pledging conference for support to the work of the ISU and the management of expenditures related to core support and of the financial security buffer. These measures were captured in the “Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU” adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

12. At the Third Review Conference, the States Parties agreed that all States Parties in a position to do so will provide necessary financial resources for the effective operation of the Implementation Support Unit and take responsibility for the mechanisms they have established. Since the Third Review Conference annually, approximately 27 States Parties have supported the work of Implementation Support Unit.

13. The ISU continues to report regularly and in accordance with the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” as well as with other decisions of the States Parties. In accordance with the decision of the 14MSP, quarterly reports have been submitted by the ISU to the Coordinating Committee on the activities and finances of the ISU.

14. The States Parties annually recognised the important support function provided by the ISU to the President, the Committees, the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator, to individual States Parties as well as to others and consistently called for States Parties to continue their support to the ISU.

15. Since the Third Review Conference, through financial support provided by Switzerland, the ISU continued to be hosted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, ensuring that there was no cost to the States Parties associated with the logistical and administrative support to the ISU.

### Meetings of the States Parties

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

17. The Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties was held in Geneva from 30 November to 4 December 2015 and presided over by H.E. Bertrand de Crombrughe, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties was held in Santiago, Chile, from 28 November to 1 December 2016 and presided over by, H.E. Heraldo Muñoz Valenzuela Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile (represented by H.E. Marta Maura, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations Office at Geneva). The Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties was held in Vienna, Austria from 18-20 December 2017 and presided over by H.E. Thomas Hajnoczi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties was held in Geneva from 26-30 November 2018 and presided over by H.E. Suraya Dalil, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Fourth Review Conference was held in Oslo, Norway from 25 – 29 November 2019 and presided over by Hans Brattskar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

18. Since the Third Review Conference, the States Parties have continued to make use of the Meetings of the States Parties as mechanisms to advance implementation of the Convention. At each Meeting, the States Parties considered final conclusions on the implementation of the mandate of the President, the Committee on the Implementation of

Article 5, the Committee on Victim Assistance, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. These reports measured annual progress made by States Parties in the pursuit of the Convention's core aims between Meetings of the States Parties, highlighting relevant actions of the Maputo Action Plan, and highlighting priority areas of work for the States Parties, the Committees and the President. In addition, programmes for the Meetings of the States Parties provided an opportunity for States Parties implementing key provisions of the Convention to provide updates in fulfilling their obligations.

19. Since the Third Review Conference a number of Meetings of the States Parties have hosted a number of panel discussions including a high level session on Victim Assistance during the 14MSP, a panel on Comprehensive Mine Action and Peace: Cooperation towards a Mine Free World during the 15MSP, a panel on 20 Years of Success: Fulfilling the Promise of the Convention by 2025 and a panel on "Keeping people at the heart of the Convention: Effective Victim Assistance" at the 16MSP. These panels offered an opportunity for States Parties to reflect on important matters concerning the implementation of the Convention.

20. Since the Third Review Conference, the Convention has faced challenges caused by non-payment and late payment of assessed contributions by States as well as by the structure of the financial arrangements for the Convention. These structural issues have forced the States Parties to take a number of cost-cutting measures, including undesirable measures such as reducing the number of meeting days due to insufficient funds to hold meetings as planned. Since 2016 a number of measures have been established in the context of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to ensure the financial predictability and sustainability including the inclusion of a contingency line in cost estimates and measures related to timely payment and non-payment of contributions as well as cost-cutting measures on an ad-hoc basis. The President of the Fourth Review Conference presented a report and recommendations containing a number of actions to be adopted by the Fourth Review Conference.

### **Intersessional Meetings**

21. Since the Third Review Conference, the States Parties have continued to hold intersessional meetings between Meetings of the States Parties. Since the Third Review Conference, the intersessional meetings have continued to prove a valuable informal forum to exchange information on progress made and remaining challenges and to discuss matters related with the implementation of the Convention. Since the Third Review Conference, thematic panels have been introduced to address pertinent issues related to the Convention's implementation, including a thematic discussion on "Partnerships: State of Play" during the June 2015 intersessional meetings, "Achieving Completion: A Mine Free World by 2025: the last stretch" during the May 2016 Intersessional meetings, "Meeting on Aspirations of 2025" during the June 2017 intersessional meetings and "Implementation of Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention" during the June 2018 intersessional meetings. The intersessional meetings on 22-24 May 2019 included a full day of informal thematic discussions on current challenges to implementation of the Convention, including mine clearance and completion deadlines; new use of anti-personnel mines and national reporting; risk education and protection of civilians; victim assistance; integrating a gender perspective in mine action; and cooperation and assistance.

22. Since the Third Review Conference, the intersessional meetings have been held over a period of 2 days offering an opportunity for States to provide updates on their implementation efforts. With the focus having been placed on a more tailored approach to implementation by individual states and Committees valuing more and more direct interaction with individual States, several Committees have taken advantage of the intersessional meetings to hold bilateral meetings with national mine action directors in Geneva.

23. Since the Third Review Conference, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining has continued to host the intersessional meetings with financial support from Switzerland, thus ensuring that there was no cost to the States Parties associated with the organisation of these meetings.

### **Coordinating Committee**

24. At the Third Review Conference, the States Parties highlighted the important role of the Coordinating Committee in coordinating the work flowing from, and related to, formal and informal meetings of the States Parties. Since the Third Review Conference, the Coordinating Committee met eight to ten times per year to fulfil its mandate. Throughout this period, the Coordinating Committee maintained its historic practice of involving the ICBL, the ICRC, and the United Nations as represented by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the GICHD, the President-Designate and the Coordinator of the informal Sponsorship Programme.

25. The States Parties continued to note the important work of the Convention's Committees in supporting the Convention's implementation. In particular, since the Third Review Conference, the collaboration between the Committees and implementing States Parties has strengthened, ensuring a greater flow of information between States Parties implementing commitments under the Convention and Convention's machinery.

### **Sponsorship Programme**

26. Since the Third Review Conference, the Sponsorship Programme has continued to permit widespread representation at meetings of the Convention. The States Parties have continued to recognise the importance of the Sponsorship Programme to ensure broad participation from representatives of States Parties that may not be in a position to participate without sponsorship support.

27. During each year from 2014-2018, the informal Sponsorship Programme supported the participation of an average of 17 delegates representing an average of 16 States at each set of intersessional meetings or to each Meeting of the States Parties. Sponsorship funding has continued to decrease over the years but has retained steady support from a few States Parties.

28. Since the Third Review Conference, the Sponsorship Programme has encouraged States Parties to consider gender and diversity in the composition of their delegations. However, States Parties note that a disproportionate number of the persons sponsored have been male.

### **Participation of other actors**

29. The States Parties continued to recognise and further encourage the full participation in and contribution to the implementation of the Convention by the ICBL, ICRC, national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their International Federation, the UN, the GICHD, international and regional organisations, mine survivors and their organisations, mine clearance operators and other civil society organisations. The States Parties benefited greatly from the sense of partnership that exists on the part of the wide range of actors that have committed to working together to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

30. Since the Third Review Conference, the Convention's implementation machinery has taken a more individual country-focused approach, engaging on a one on one basis with representatives of States Parties and of organisations working in States Parties. The importance of interaction with and coordination by all stakeholders supporting States Parties in implementing their obligations in country, including mine clearance operators as well as actors involved in supporting and promoting the rights of mine victims and persons with disabilities, has increasingly been recognised. This will be an essential element in the continued successful implementation of the Convention.

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