

Triangular International Cooperation

Ideas presented by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee in the General Status and Operation of the Convention
(Guatemala and Belgium)

April 24, 2006

Action #50 of the Nairobi Action Plan indicates that “[States Parties] *will pursue efforts to identify new and non-traditional sources of support, be they technical, material or financial, for activities to implement the Convention.*” Based on this and on provisions of Article 6 of the Convention, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention propose that on 8 May 2006, during the Standing Committee meeting under the agenda item on *cooperation and assistance*, a discussion be held on “*Triangular International Cooperation.*”

Triangular International Cooperation involves three primary partners as follows:

1. A State Party that is in the process of implementing Article 5 and that may be facing problems to start, continue or conclude its demining program due to lack of technical cooperation;
2. A State Party that has experience in implementing Article 5 and that, with a third-party support, could provide advisory, consultancy, training or supervision; and,
3. A donor country that can provide financial support to a the State Party that has experience in implementing Article 5 in order to assist the State Party which faces problems in implementing Article 5.

Currently there are 6 States Parties that have indicated that they have fulfilled their Article 5 obligations and many of them possess skilled personnel with experience in the field as well as in administrative and organizational tasks. Having completed the national demining programmes in these States, much of their skilled capacity is currently not being used but is available. This is especially the case for civilian personnel who can apply their expertise in other States and hence make an ongoing contribution or pursue work in other disciplines and hence see a loss to the Convention community of their expertise.

An important element that has delayed implementation of Article 5 by some States Parties has been the problem of acquiring technical cooperation. These States Parties and other States could provide technical cooperation to others but the lack of own financial resources prevents them from doing so.

According to Actions #13, #15, #16, #23, #36, #44, #45, #46, #49 and #50 of the Nairobi Action Plan, States Parties, which are developing countries, can help others in these areas. Such cooperation may be particularly beneficial given the scope for technical experts and recipient officials to work in their own language.

Another element for discussion could be the financial resources, staff salary and labour indemnities. For a deminer or a specialist from a developed country, his/her salary could be higher in any country than for the one from a developing country. It should not be like that but in practice, it is. With the same resources, donor country can support teams with more members and more equipment to train and supervise local staff.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee in the General Status and Operation of the Convention invite States Parties, NGOs and regional organizations to engage in a discussion on the basis of the ideas in this paper and request that those actors that have already engaged in *Triangular International Cooperation* – like the Organization of American States and States in the Americas – to share their knowledge and experiences.