

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION

### Questionnaire for States Parties to volunteer information on administrative and other measures taken in accordance with Article 9



'ending the suffering caused  
by anti-personnel mines'  
ap mine ban convention

#### Background:

Article 9 of the Convention obliges States Parties to “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.” In addition, Article 7.1(a) obliges States Parties to report on “the national implementation measures referred to in Article 9.” While almost 80 States Parties have reported on “legal” measures taken in accordance with Article 9, very few have reported on “administrative and other measures.”<sup>1</sup> With respect to this matter, at the First Review Conference, the States Parties concluded the following:

“In addition to reporting legal measures, some States Parties have reported other measures mentioned in Article 9 to prevent and suppress prohibited activities. These measures include the systematic dissemination of information regarding the Convention’s prohibitions to their armed forces, the development of armed forces training bulletins, the distribution of the text of the Convention in military academies and directives issued to police forces. However, few States Parties have reported taking measures as these or otherwise harmonising military doctrine with the Convention’s obligations. Thus, it will be an ongoing challenge for most States Parties to ensure that such measures to prevent and suppress prohibited activities - in addition to legal measures - are taken and reported upon.”<sup>2</sup>

#### Questions:

To assist States Parties which may wish to provide further clarity on “administrative and other measures” taken in accordance with Article 9, the Co-Chairs have prepared the following questions:

1. *What measures have been taken to disseminate information regarding the Convention’s prohibitions to your State’s armed forces and its military academies?*
2. *What measures have been taken to make adjustments, in light of the Convention’s prohibitions, to the training of your State’s armed forces and in the development of training bulletins?*
3. *What measures have been taken to harmonise your State’s armed forces’ standing operating procedures and military doctrine with the Convention’s obligations?*
4. *What measures have been taken to issue directives to police forces regarding preventing and suppressing prohibited acts?*

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<sup>1</sup> An example of a State Party that has provided such information is Australia which has reported the following:

- *A Training Information Bulletin (TIB), NO. 86, ‘Conventions on the Use of Landmines: A Commanders Guide’ was prepared and promulgated, in October 1999, within the Australian Defence Force. The document aims to provide Commanders and staff with an interpretation of revised policy on landmines, booby traps and improvised explosive devices and their application to military operations.*

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- *The Department Of Defence produced a document (Defgram, No. 196/99) entitled "Ottawa Landmines Convention - Defence implications and obligations." A Defgram is a publication disseminated within the Defence Organisation. Defgram 196/99 is an information document, conveying to the Defence organisation its obligations under the Ottawa Convention.*

<sup>2</sup> Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 1999-2004, paragraph 123. Part II of the Final Report of the First 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. Adopted 3 December 2004. UN document # APLC/CONF/2004/5.