

MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES JUNE 2-6, 2008



PROGRAMME

MONDAY 2 JUNE

Opening of the week of Standing Committee meetings

10:00 Opening of the week of meetings

The week of meetings will be opened by the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP), His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein, and by the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Ambassador Stephan Nellen.

Please note: (a) Participants are encouraged to participate actively in discussions on specific topics and to refrain from making statements of a general nature. (b) The principle of flexibility will be applied with respect to time allocations (e.g., if one Standing Committee meeting uses less than its allocated time the subsequent Standing Committee meeting could immediately commence). (c) States Parties providing updates on implementation are encouraged to provide only new information.

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention

10:15 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs (Germany and Kenya) have prepared a programme that covers four areas of work: (i) an overall assessment of the status of the pursuit of the Convention's core aims; (ii) discussions on matters of cross-cutting interest to all Standing Committees; (iii) ongoing consideration of the implementation of various articles of the Convention which have traditionally been discussed by this Standing Committee; and, (iv) updates on the work of various implementation mechanisms.

Overview of the general status of implementation: Update on the pursuit of the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* and the priorities contained in the *Dead Sea Progress Report*

The President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP) will review progress made to date in the pursuit of the 70 action points contained in the *Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009* and the various priorities recorded in the *Dead Sea Progress Report*.

Overview of the general status of universalization

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that during the period 2005 to 2009, universal adherence to the Convention “will remain an important object of cooperation among States Parties.”¹ The *Dead Sea Progress Report* reemphasized this matter, stating that “all States Parties should direct specific efforts towards encouraging quick progress by those States not parties which have indicated that they could ratify or accede to the Convention in the near-term”, that “all States Parties and those that share their aims should continue to increase universalization efforts that place a priority on those States not parties that produce, use, transfer and maintain large stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, including those developing new kinds of anti-personnel mines,” and, that “States Parties should make renewed efforts to use bilateral, regional and multilateral meetings and events to promote the Convention including in the United Nations General Assembly and its committees.”

The Coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group (Canada) will provide an overview of steps taken since the 8MSP to promote universalization. As well, the Co-Chairs hope that other relevant actors will take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the discussion on universalization.

- Contact Group Coordinator’s update.
- Opportunity for States not parties which have taken steps towards ratification of, or accession to, the Convention to provide updates or make announcements regarding the date when they intend to join the Convention.
- Opportunity for States Parties and organizations that have contributed to universalization efforts to provide updates on their activities.

Cross-cutting matters concerning cooperation and assistance

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* indicated that “States Parties should continue to support efforts to establish and promote guidelines on how to more effectively link mine action with development.” The Linking Mine Action and Development Contact Group Coordinator will provide an update on this matter. This will be followed by an opportunity for all other interested actors to provide updates or share views on cross-cutting matters concerning cooperation and assistance.

- Contact Group Coordinator’s update.
- Opportunity for States Parties and other interested actors to provide updates or share views on cross-cutting matters concerning cooperation and assistance.

Transparency and the exchange of information

The *Nairobi Action Plan* urges the States Parties that have not yet done so to fulfil their obligation to provide initial transparency reports under Article 7 without further delay and calls upon all States Parties to fulfil their obligations to annually update Article 7 transparency reports and maximise reporting as a tool to assist in implementation.² With respect to this matter, the *Dead Sea Progress Report* emphasised that “those States Parties which are late in submitting initial transparency reports and those that did not provide updated information in 2007 covering the previous calendar year should submit their reports as a matter of urgency.”

The Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group (Belgium) will provide an overview of efforts related to transparency reporting and others are invited to provide updates and share views.

- Contact Group Coordinator’s update.

¹ *Nairobi Action Plan*, paragraph 2.

² *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #51 and #52.

- Opportunity for States Parties and others to provide updates on the application of actions in the *Nairobi Action Plan* that concern transparency and the exchange of information as well as on work undertaken in the context of relevant priorities recorded in the *Dead Sea Progress Report*.

Article 3: Updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that “transparency and the open exchange of information have been essential pillars on which the Convention’s practices, procedures and tradition of partnership have been built,” and, that “the States Parties recognize that transparency and effective information exchange will be equally crucial to fulfilling their obligations during the period 2005-2009.”³ To this end, the States Parties agreed to a number of actions, including that “all States Parties will (...) in situations where States Parties have retained mines in accordance with the exceptions in Article 3, provide information on the plans requiring the retention of mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques and report on the actual use of retained mines and the results of such use.”⁴

To assist States Parties in applying Action #54 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the States Parties at the 6MSP agreed to amend the Article 7 reporting format, thus creating a means for States Parties to share information in addition to what is minimally required on mines retained in accordance with Article 3. In the *Dead Sea Progress Report*, it was noted that in 2007, 12 States Parties used the amended reporting format to provide such information and that 9 States Parties volunteered information at the April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation.

To further support the application of Action #54, the Co-Chairs have distributed a series of questions to relevant States Parties to assist them in acting in accordance with Action #54 (Document 1).

- Opportunity for those States Parties which have reported mines retained for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share information on their plans requiring the retention of mines in accordance with Article 3, the actual use of these mines and the results of this use. (See Document 1.)
- Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported that they have not retained mines for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share their experiences.
- Opportunity for comments, questions and discussion.

13:00 Meeting adjourns until Friday 6 June at (approximately) 11:30

³ *Nairobi Action Plan*, paragraph 7.

⁴ *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #54.

Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction

15:00 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* recorded that while the number of States Parties that must fulfil Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations is small, serious challenges remain. Since the 8MSP, some States Parties have missed their deadlines for destroying stockpiled mines within four years after entry into force. In addition, one State Party that is presumed to hold stocks is several years late in submitting a transparency report as required. It is the Co-Chairs' hope that the meeting of the Standing Committee can be used to provide clarity on these and other concerns, and, to identify ways to overcome such challenges.

An overview of the status of stockpile destruction

- Co-Chairs' presentation on progress in implementing Article 4.
- Views of the ICBL on the state of implementation.

Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation

The *Nairobi Action Plan* states that the States Parties that have not yet completed their anti-personnel mine stockpile destruction programmes will: establish the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed, and report this information as required by Article 7; establish appropriate national and local capacities to meet their Article 4 obligations; strive to complete their destruction programmes if possible in advance of their four-year deadlines; and, make their problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance known in a timely manner.⁵

It is the Co-Chairs' hope that relevant States Parties will use the opportunity presented by the Standing Committee meeting, as is suggested in the *Nairobi Action Plan*, to share information on their "problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance."

- Opportunity for an update by States Parties⁶ which, since the 8MSP, have had deadlines for completing their stockpile destruction programmes. (See Document 2.)
- Opportunity for updates by those States Parties⁷ which have deadlines that have not yet occurred. (See Document 2.)
- Opportunity for comments and questions.

Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of transparency reporting

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* noted that some States Parties are overdue in providing an initial transparency report as required and that the information in such reports would provide clarity on stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by these States Parties, and, possibly, on the status of programmes for destroying these mines and on the types and quantities of mines destroyed after entry into force. The Co-Chairs hope, therefore, that relevant States Parties will provide updates on the status of the preparation of their initial transparency reports, particularly with respect to reporting on the existence or absence of stockpiled anti-personnel mines under their control or jurisdiction.

- Opportunity for updates by States Parties that have not yet confirmed their stockpile status in an Article 7 transparency report.

⁵ *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #9, #10, #11 and #12.

⁶ Belarus, Burundi, Greece, Sudan and Turkey.

⁷ Indonesia, Ethiopia, and Ukraine.

The destruction of previously unknown stockpiles

The *Nairobi Action Plan* states, in Action #15, that “all States Parties will, when previously unknown stockpiles are discovered after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed, report such discoveries in accordance with their obligations under Article 7, take advantage of other informal means to share such information and destroy these mines as a matter of urgency.” With a view to facilitating reporting of stockpiled anti-personnel mines discovered and destroyed after Article 4 deadlines have passed, the 8MSP adopted amendments to the Article 7 reporting format. It is the Co-Chairs’ hope that relevant States Parties will provide updates on weapons caches that include anti-personnel mines which have been discovered in, or otherwise have come under the control of, a State Party since the completion of its stockpile destruction programme.

- Opportunity for updates by States Parties on anti-personnel mines discovered after the completion of destruction programmes.

Addressing concerns about compliance with Article 4 of the Convention

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* recorded that in 2007 one State Party was unable to fulfill its Article 4 obligations within its proscribed four year time period after entry into force. Since the 8MSP, other States Parties have failed to comply by their deadlines. The *Dead Sea Progress Report* also recorded that one State Party, for which it is assumed to possess, and hence must destroy, stockpiled anti-personnel mines, remains overdue in providing an initial transparency report as required.

In keeping with the States Parties obligation “to consult and cooperate with each other regarding the implementation of the provisions of this Convention, and to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance by States Parties with their obligation under this Convention,” how should States Parties act? What can be done to prevent future concerns about compliance with Article 4 implementation by deadlines?

- Opportunity for a discussion on addressing concerns about compliance with Article 4 of the Convention.

18:00 Meeting adjourns until 10:00 on Tuesday 3 June.

TUESDAY 3 JUNE

Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction

10:00 Cooperation and assistance in the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines

The *Nairobi Action Plan* states that States Parties in a position to do so will: “act upon their obligations under Article 6 (5) to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for stockpile destruction, responding to priorities for assistance as articulated by those States Parties in need,” and, “support the investigation and further development of technical solutions to overcome the particular challenges associated with destroying PFM mines.”⁸ The *Dead Sea Progress Report* further emphasized this point, by noting that States Parties in a position to do so should promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs and that all States Parties should place an increased emphasis on the obligation of each State Party giving and receiving assistance under the provisions of Article 6 to cooperate with a view to ensuring the full and prompt implementation of agreed assistance programs.

⁸ *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #13 and #14.

To assess the status of the application of this portion of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, it is the Co-Chairs' hope that those States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines will provide updates.

- Opportunity for updates by States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for stockpile destruction.

Other matters of a thematic nature related to stockpile destruction

The States Parties have previously highlighted challenges in a number of thematic areas concerning the fulfillment of Article 4 obligations. The Co-Chairs intend to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on thematic matters of interest to delegations.

- Opportunity for an exchange of views on thematic matters concerning the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs

11:30 Meeting ends⁹

Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

11:30 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs' (Cambodia and New Zealand) primary aim is to support further progress in the fulfilment of the commitment that all States Parties made in the *Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009* to enhance our efforts in regard to the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors. This is particularly important for the 24 States Parties that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers – hundreds or thousands, if not tens-of-thousands – of landmine survivors.

Overview of the status of implementation

- Presentation by the Co-Chairs.

Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation

As the ultimate responsibility of meeting the needs of landmine survivors within a particular State rests with that State, no external actor can define for it what can or should be achieved by when and how in meeting the needs of these survivors. Since the First Review Conference, many of the 24 relevant States Parties made significant advances toward defining these matters. The *Dead Sea Progress Report* noted that “progress in victim assistance should be specific, measurable and time-bound, with specific measures logically needing to be determined by individual States Parties based on their very diverse circumstances” and called on relevant States Parties to “provide an unambiguous assessment of how progress with respect to victim assistance as concerns their States could be measured by the time of the Second Review Conference in 2009.”

⁹ Note that given the principle of flexibility with respect to the application of the programme, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration may start earlier than 11:30 on 3 June if the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction completes its work before that time.

- Opportunity for updates by those States Parties¹⁰ that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers of landmine survivors. (See Document 2.4.)
- Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties that have indicated that they hold the responsibility to provide for the well-being of significant numbers of landmine survivors.
- Opportunity for updates from new States Parties, other States Parties and from States not parties with responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors.

Cooperation and assistance in providing for the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* noted “the importance of a two track approach to cooperation on victim assistance,” involving “assistance provided by or through specialised organisations in which assistance specifically targets landmine survivors and other war wounded, and, assistance in the form of integrated approaches in which development cooperation aims to guarantee the rights of all individuals, including persons with disabilities.” The *Dead Sea Progress Report* further stated that “while some States Parties provided information on efforts regarding the former, very little was provided regarding efforts that will ultimately benefit landmine survivors through integrated development cooperation.”

It is the Co-Chairs’ desire that more States Parties provide examples of how, through bilateral cooperation relationships, they are fulfilling their obligations under Article 6.3 of the Convention to “provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.” In addition, the Co-Chairs wish to provide an opportunity for updates from organisations involved in efforts that specifically target populations of persons with disabilities which include concentrations of landmine survivors.

- Opportunity for updates by States Parties and others in a position to provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of landmine victims. (See Document 2.5.)
- Opportunity for updates by organizations involved in the provision of assistance.

18:00 Meeting adjourns until Friday 6 June at 10:00

WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE

Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies

10:00 Opening of the meeting by the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs (Canada and Peru) have developed a programme for the Standing Committee which foresees work in the following seven areas: (i) an assessment of the status of implementation of Article 5, including by providing a forum for relevant States Parties to report on Article 5 completion; (ii) a stock-taking of the process of preparing and analysing requests under Article 5 of the Convention; (iii) a review

¹⁰ Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda and Yemen.

of how the full range of methods to release “mined areas” as defined by the Convention could be used to accelerate Article 5 implementation; (iv) a review of the status of mine risk education efforts; (v) updates on status of implementation by States Parties in the process of fulfilling their Article 5 obligations; (vi) cooperation and assistance as it concerns Article 5 implementation (vii) updates on other matters that relate to the implementation of Article 5.

An overview of the status of implementation of Article 5

- Co-Chairs’ presentation on the status of implementation of Article 5.

Updates by States Parties that have reported completion of Article 5 obligations since the 8MSP

At the 7MSP, the States Parties adopted a model declaration as a voluntary means to report completion of Article 5 obligations. This declaration was most recently used in an adapted form by one State Party at the 8MSP. By the time the Standing Committee meets, at least one additional State Party may be in a position to report on completion of Article 5 obligations.

- Updates by States Parties that have completed implementation of Article 5 since the 8MSP. (See Document 5.)

Stocktaking of the process of preparing and analysing requests submitted under Article 5

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* recorded that of the 19 remaining States Parties with deadlines in 2009 for the fulfilment of obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention: 12 indicated that they will submit a request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas under their jurisdiction or control; 1 indicated that it will comply with its obligations no later than 10 years after entry into force of the Convention for this State Party; 2 indicated that they will do so as well if certain circumstances manifest themselves; and, 4 had not yet indicated whether they will submit a request for an extension. (See paragraphs 33-35 of and Annex IV to the *Dead Sea Progress Report*.)

By the time the Standing Committee meets, several of these 19 States Parties will have submitted requests for extensions. Moreover, the process of analysing requests, agreed to at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, will have commenced.

- Presentation by the 8MSP President on the status of requests received and the analysis of them.
- Opportunity for States Parties that have submitted requests to share highlights of their requests with the Standing Committee.
- Opportunity for comments and questions on the updates provided.

13:00 Break for lunch

15:00 Making use of the full range of methods to more rapidly release areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* recorded that the issue of how to increase efficiency in mine action through greater use of effective land release mechanisms was subject to increasing interest during the period since the 7MSP. It was further noted that “when done according to strict criteria and with the knowledge and approval of local actors, land release through means other than clearance can speed up implementation of Article 5 in a way that is consistent with and supports implementation of the Convention.” In addition, at the 8MSP, the States Parties concluded their informal discussion on

“practical ways to overcoming challenges in implementing Article 5” by highlighting “the value of States Parties making use of the full range of emerging practical methods to more rapidly release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines.”¹¹

The Co-Chairs wish to continue to place a high priority on this matter with a view to promoting the further application of the full range of land release methods, particularly by States Parties with upcoming Article 5 deadlines, in order to achieve complete implementation in as short a time period as possible.

- Discussion on ongoing advances in the development of land release principles, practices and standards.

A review of the status of mine risk education efforts

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* highlighted that mine risk education (MRE) is required in at-risk communities even during conflict and that to be sustainable MRE must include local participation. The importance of creatively addressing risk taking behaviour was pointed out, as was the need for data collection, survey and marking and fencing. It was underlined that affected States Parties should be prepared for emergency MRE. The need to increase resources provided for MRE by affected States Parties was also highlighted.

- Expert presentations on the status of mine risk education efforts

18:00 Meeting adjourns until Thursday 5 June at 10:00

THURSDAY 5 JUNE

Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies

10:00 Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* recorded that “in many instances States Parties reported that impressive progress has been made either since the 7MSP or since entry into force in fulfilling the obligation to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under a State Party’s jurisdiction or control.” However, the *Dead Sea Progress Report* also noted that “while significant progress has been achieved by many States Parties in fulfilling their Article 5 obligations, many challenges remain.”

The Standing Committee is an important opportunity for States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 to provide clarity on progress made and challenges that remain in implementing Article 5. The Co-Chairs have distributed a questionnaire as a means to assist these States Parties in providing such clarity.

- Opportunity for updates by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5 of the Convention (See Document 6.)

Note: Given that many States Parties have already provided comprehensive background presentations on the situations in their countries, the Co-Chairs kindly request that only new information be provided to the Standing Committee.

¹¹ Final report of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties, paragraph 27.

- Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations.

13:00 Break for lunch

15:00 Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation (continued)

- Opportunity for updates by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5 of the Convention (See Document 6.)
- Opportunity for comments and questions in response to the presentations made by those States Parties which have indicated that they are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations.

Cooperation and assistance in clearing mined areas

Action #23 of the *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that “States Parties in a position to do so will act upon their obligations under Article 6 (3) and 6 (4) to promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for mine clearance and mine risk education, responding to the priorities for assistance as articulated by the mine-affected States Parties themselves and ensuring the continuity and sustainability of resource commitments.” In addition, the First Review Conference noted the challenge of ensuring a renewed commitment “through means such as dedicated funds to assist in the implementation of the Convention and by mainstreaming support to mine action through broader humanitarian, development, peace-building and peace support programmes.”

- Opportunity for updates by States Parties and others in a position to assist those in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations.

What’s new? Brief updates on other matters of a thematic nature related to fulfilling Article 5 obligations

This Standing Committee traditionally has provided an opportunity for updates on other thematic matters related to fulfilling Article 5 obligations.

- Gender and mine action
- Mine action technologies
- Other matters of a thematic nature related to fulfilling Article 5 obligations

Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs

18:00 Meeting ends

FRIDAY 6 JUNE

Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

10:00 Meeting reconvenes

Update on the activities of victim assistance experts

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* recorded that “in keeping with Actions #38 and #39 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, which call on States Parties and relevant organizations to continue to ensure effective integration of mine victims in the work of the Convention and an effective contribution in all relevant deliberations by health, rehabilitation and social services professionals, at least 17 States Parties included relevant victim assistance specialists in their delegations to the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees. It is the Co-Chairs’ intention to make the best possible use of the time dedicated by such professionals to the work of the Convention. To this end, the Co-Chairs have prepared a week-long series of activities for these representatives.

- Update by victim assistance experts on briefings and meetings held during the week of Standing Committee meetings.

Update on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* indicated that “efforts continued (between the 7MSP and 8MSP) to strengthen the normative framework that protects and ensures respect for the rights of persons with disabilities including landmine survivors.” Since the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) opened for signature on 30 March 2007, 15 States Parties to the AP Mine Ban Convention, including four of the 24 States Parties reporting responsibility for significant number of mine survivors, have ratified the CRPD. This instrument may provide guidance to States Parties in meeting their responsibilities to landmine survivors.

- Update on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Matters of a thematic nature related to victim assistance

- Opportunity for an exchange of views on thematic matters concerning victim assistance.

Towards the Second Review Conference

- Opportunity for exchange of views on goals to be achieved by the Second Review Conference and indicators to measure progress

Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs

11:30 Meeting ends

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention

11:30 Updates by Contact Group Coordinators

The *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that “all States Parties will (...) continue to utilize informal mechanisms such as the Contact Groups, which have emerged to meet specific needs.”¹² During the week of meetings of the Standing Committees, the Contact Groups undoubtedly will be extremely active and may be in a position to provide updates on their work.

- Opportunity for updates to be provided by Contact Group Coordinators.

Article 3: Plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques (continued, if necessary – see page 3)

- Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported mines retained for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share information on their plans requiring the retention of mines in accordance with Article 3, the actual use of these mines and the results of this use. (See Document 1.)
- Opportunity for those States Parties that have reported that they have not retained mines for the purposes permitted in Article 3 to share their experiences.
- Opportunity for comments, questions and discussion.

Article 9: The development and adoption of legislative, administrative and other measures

The *Nairobi Action Plan* notes that “primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Convention rests with each State Party. Article 9 of the Convention accordingly requires each party to take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress prohibited activities by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction and control.”¹³ To this end, it was agreed, inter alia, that the States Parties which have not yet done so will “develop and adopt legislative, administrative and other measures in accordance with Article 9 as soon as possible to fulfil their obligations under this Article thereby contributing to full compliance with the Convention and report annually on progress as required by Article 7.”¹⁴ In the *Dead Sea Progress Report*, it was noted that “75 States Parties have not yet reported having adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations or that they consider existing laws to be sufficient.”

Also with respect to Article 9, the First Review Conference recorded that “in addition to reporting legal measures, some States Parties have reported other measures mentioned in Article 9 to prevent and suppress prohibited activities.” The First Review Conference further noted that 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.”¹⁵

- Presentation by the ICRC on the status of implementation of Article 9.

¹² *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #69.

¹³ *Nairobi Action Plan*, paragraph 8.

¹⁴ *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #59.

¹⁵ *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.

- Opportunity for updates by those States Parties in the process of developing and adopting legislative, administrative and other measures in accordance with Article 9, and, if relevant, to make their needs known if assistance is required.

The practical implementation of the various other provisions of the Convention

The *Nairobi Action Plan* indicates that the States Parties will “exchange views and share their experiences in a cooperative and informal manner on the practical implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, including Articles 1, 2 and 3, to continue to promote effective and consistent application of these provisions.”¹⁶

- Opportunity for updates and an exchange of views on the practical implementation of other provisions of the Convention.
 - The practical implementation of Article 1.
 - The practical implementation of Article 2.
 - The practical implementation of Article 3.
 - The practical implementation of measures preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance.
 - The practical implementation of other provisions of the Convention not otherwise covered by this or other Standing Committees.

13:00 Break for lunch

15:00 The practical implementation of the various other provisions of the Convention (continued, if necessary)

- Opportunity for updates and an exchange of views on the practical implementation of other provisions of the Convention.

Preparations for the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

In keeping with past practice, the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention will serve as a forum for views to be shared with respect to various procedural matters concerning the next Meeting of the States Parties. These matters include a draft agenda, a draft programme, draft rules of procedure and draft cost estimates for the Meeting of the States Parties. (See Document 7, Document 8 and Document 9.)

- Presentation by the 9MSP President-Designate on suggestions for the approach to be taken with respect to the 9MSP and on draft rules of procedure. (See Document 7 and Document 8.)
- Presentation by the 9MSP Secretary General-Designate on organizational matters concerning the 9MSP.
- Presentation by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs on draft cost estimates for the 9MSP and on other organizational matters. (See Document 9.)

Matters pertaining to the general operations of the Convention

In keeping with past practice, the Standing Committee will provide an opportunity for updates on various matters concerning the general operations of the Convention, including updates on the activities of the Coordinating Committee (8MSP President), the Implementation Support Unit (Director of the GICHD

¹⁶ *Nairobi Action Plan*, Action #55.

and the Director of the Implementation Support Unit), and, the Sponsorship Programme (United Kingdom).

With respect to the Implementation Support Unit and the Sponsorship Programme, the Co-Chairs wish to recall that in the *Nairobi Action Plan*, it was agreed that States Parties will “continue to provide on a voluntary basis, in accordance with their agreement with the GICHD, the necessary financial resources for the operation of the Implementation Support Unit”, and, “on a voluntary basis contribute to the Sponsorship Programme.”¹⁷

- Opportunity for comments on the work of various implementation mechanisms and to make announcements of support to the Implementation Support Unit Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Programme.

Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs

Closing of the week of Standing Committee meetings

17:30 Remarks by the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

18:00 Week of Standing Committee meetings ends

¹⁷ *Nairobi Action Plan*, Actions #67 and #70.