

Status of the preparation of the draft review of the operation and status of the Convention, 2010-2014

Director of the Implementation Support Unit

At the 6 December 2013 First Preparatory Meeting, the President Designate indicated the Third Review Conference should, as was the case in 2004 and 2009, adopt a comprehensive review of the Convention covering a five year period between the Second and the Third Review Conferences.

It was proposed that this document should achieve the following:

- a. The review should document the progress made by the States Parties since the Second Review Conference in fulfilling the obligations under the Convention.
- b. The review should document efforts undertaken with respect to the commitments the States Parties made in the Cartagena Action Plan and the results of these actions.
- c. The review should document decisions and recommendations made by the States Parties since the Second Review Conference to facilitate and enhance implementation of the provisions of the Convention, reflecting an increased understanding of effective means to fulfil the obligations under the Convention.
- d. The review should contain conclusions related to challenges that remain, as of the Third Review Conference Review Conference, in fulfilling the obligations under the Convention.
- e. The review should be organized in a manner consistent with the past reviews, which in turn have been organized in a manner consistent with how the States Parties have conceptualized the Convention and organized their work since 2002.

In addition to specific sections covering the Convention's four core aims and the four other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims, the review should document cross-cutting aspects (e.g., gender aspects, which feature in a cross-cutting way in the Cartagena Action Plan).

Following the First Preparatory Meeting, the President-Designate directed the ISU to begin preparing the Review document.

It is my pleasure to now provide delegations with an update on the ISU's efforts and how the ISU is approaching this task.

Introduction

With respect to the introduction, this will very much follow the example of the introduction to the 2009 Review document.

I. Universalizing the Convention

The section on universalization will cover progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of universal acceptance of the Convention and its norms during the period 2010-2014, giving particular attention to Actions 1-6 of the Cartagena Action Plan.

To obtain additional information to assist in preparing this section of the Review, the ISU has sent a uniform set of questions to States not party to the Convention to provide them with an opportunity to clarify, correct and/or update what is known about their policies on the Convention and their norms.

II. Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

The section on stockpile destruction will cover progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of aim of the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines during the period 2010-2014, giving particular attention to Actions 7-12 of the Cartagena Action Plan.

As such, it will also cover previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

This section will document progress made by individual States Parties in fulfilling Article 4 obligations during the period 2010-2014.

The ISU has been and will be in touch with States Parties concerned to ensure that the document accurately characterises the status of implementation by each.

The ISU is almost complete drafting this section and will soon provide it to the President-Designate for his review.

III. Clearing mined areas

This section will cover progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of aim of clearing all mined areas during the period 2010-2014, giving particular attention to Actions 13-22 of the Cartagena Action Plan.

It will also document understandings and processes related to Article 5 implementation which have been considered by the States Parties since 2009, for example, discussions on previously unknown mined areas and the 2012 assessment of the Article analysis process.

This section will document progress made by individual States Parties in fulfilling Article 5 obligations during the period 2010-2014.

To obtain additional information to assist in preparing this section of the Review, the ISU has sent a uniform set of questions to States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5 of the Convention.

These questions, amongst other aims, seek to clarify what remains to be done to complete implementation of Article 5 in terms of the number of confirmed and suspected mined areas.

The ISU would kindly ask States Parties concerned to respond to these questions as soon as possible.

If representatives of States Parties concerned would like another copy of the questions that have been posed, please see my colleague Juan Carlos Ruan.

IV. Assisting the victims

The victim assistance section will cover progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of aim of assisting the victims during the period 2010-2014, giving particular attention to Actions 23-33 of the Cartagena Action Plan.

It will also document understandings related to victim assistance which have been considered by the States Parties since 2009, for example, the 2013 discussions on child landmine victims.

This section will document progress made by individual States Parties in doing their utmost to ensure the well-being of mine victims during the period 2010-2014.

To obtain additional information to assist in preparing this section of the Review, the ISU has sent a questionnaire to States Parties that have indicated that they are responsible for the well-being of large numbers of mine victims.

A copy of this questionnaire is available in the document that I distributed.

The ISU would kindly ask States Parties concerned to respond to these questions as soon as possible.

V. Other matters essential for achieving the aims of the Convention

a. Cooperation and assistance

The cooperation and assistance section will cover progress made and challenges that remain related to cooperation and assistance during the period 2010-2014, giving particular attention to Actions 34-52 of the Cartagena Action Plan.

To obtain additional information to assist in preparing this section of the Review, the ISU may send a questionnaire to all States Parties.

b. Transparency in implementation

The transparency section will cover progress made and challenges that remain related to transparency in implementation during the period 2010-2014, giving particular attention to documenting efforts related to Article 7 obligations and in the context of political commitments made by the States Parties regarding providing information on a voluntary basis.

As such, it would cover Actions 54-58 of the Cartagena Action Plan, including on voluntary transparency on mines retained for permitted purposes.

c. Measures to ensure compliance

The section on measures to ensure compliance will document the States Parties consideration of such measures during the period 2010-2014, including steps taken in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention.

It would cover Actions 53 and 59-61 of the Cartagena Action Plan.

d. Implementation support

The implementation support section will document matters pertaining to this matter during the period 2010-2014, including documenting discussions and decisions taken during this period on the Implementation Support Unit and the Intersessional Work Programme, as well as the activities of the informal Sponsorship Programme.

This section would cover Actions 62-67 of the Cartagena Action Plan.

Annexes:

The Review will all also contain the following annexes:

- Dates of ratification / accession and entry into force of the States Parties
- Overview of the acceptance of the Convention's norms by States not party to the Convention
- Stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed and waiting to be destroyed
- Anti-Personnel mines retained and transferred for permitted purposes
- The status of legal measures in accordance with Article 9
- Contributions provided to the Implementation Support Unit

Conclusion

The ISU aims to provide a draft Review to the President-Designate by the end of April.

I wish to thank both States Parties and States not party to the Convention for the information they have already furnished and for their ongoing work in responding to the requests for information that we have made.