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# 16th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

AP Mine Ban Convention

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# Meeting 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

22 December 2017

Original: English

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## Sixteenth Meeting

Vienna, 18 - 21 December 2017

### Final report

#### I. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction provides in article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2, that the States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention. At the Third Review Conference (Maputo, 23-27 June 2014), the States Parties agreed that, beginning in 2015, a Meeting of the States Parties will be convened each year at the end of November or beginning of December until the end of 2018.

2. The Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties held in Santiago, Chile, from 28 November to 1 December 2016 decided to hold the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in Vienna, Austria, during the week of 18 December 2017, and to elect Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva, President of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties.<sup>1</sup> To prepare for the Sixteenth Meeting, in keeping with past practice, a provisional agenda and programme of work were presented at the 8 – 9 June 2017 informal intersessional meetings of the Convention. Based upon discussions at the meetings, it was the conclusion of the President that these documents were generally acceptable to the States Parties to be put before the Sixteenth Meeting for adoption. To seek views on matters of substance, an informal meeting was also convened in Geneva on 21 September 2017 to which all States Parties, States not parties and interested organizations were invited to participate.

#### II. Organization of the Meeting

3. The Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties was opened on 18 December 2017 by Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi of Austria, President of the Sixteenth Meeting. A high level opening ceremony featured an address of the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria, Sebastian Kurz, delivered by Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi; a video address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres; messages by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer; the United

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<sup>1</sup> APLC/MSP.15/2016/10, paragraph 39.

Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, delivered by the Director of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and Deputy to the High Representative, Thomas Markram; the Convention's Special Envoy, HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad Bin Zeid Al Hussein of Jordan; the Nobel Peace Prize co-Laureate Jody Williams; the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) Ambassador, Tun Channareth; as well as the President of the Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Barbara Haering.

4. A panel on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention titled "20 Years of Success: Fulfilling the Promise of the Convention by 2025" was held on 18 December 2017 with the participation of Ambassador Steffen Kongstad, Permanent Representative of Norway to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; Ambassador Pedro Comissario, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations Office in Geneva; Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize co-Laureate; Margaret Orech, ICBL Ambassador; and Tammy Hall, Head of Strategies and Standards, GICHD.

5. At the first plenary session, on 18 December 2017, the Sixteenth Meeting warmly welcomed the accession of Sri Lanka to the Convention. At the same plenary session, the Meeting adopted its agenda, as contained in document APLC/MSP.16/2017/1 and APLC/MSP.16/2017/1/Corr.1, and its programme of work, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/2 and APLC/MSP.16/2017/2/Corr.1.

6. Also at the same first plenary session, Belgium, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uganda, and Zambia were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Sixteenth Meeting. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of Ambassador Wolfgang Angerholzer, Director, Organization of International Conferences and Matters Relating to International Organizations in Austria, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, as Secretary-General of the Meeting. The Meeting also took note of the appointment, by the United Nations Secretary-General, of Peter Kolarov of the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) as Executive Secretary of the Meeting, and the appointment, by the President, of Juan Carlos Ruan, Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), as the President's Executive Coordinator.

### **III. Participation in the Meeting**

7. The following States Parties participated in the Meeting: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

8. The following State, which has acceded to the Convention, but for which it has not yet entered in force, participated in the Meeting: Sri Lanka.

9. The following delegations participated in the Meeting as observers, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Meeting: Azerbaijan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic

Republic, Lebanon, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, and United States of America.

10. In accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Rules of Procedure, the following international organizations and institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as observers: ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center, European Union, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Implementation Support Unit for the Convention on Cluster Munitions, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, International Committee of the Red Cross, League of Arab States, Organization of American States (OAS), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

11. In accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure, the following other organizations attended the Meeting as observers: APOPO, Center for International Stabilization and Recovery, Cleared Ground Demining, Find a Better Way, The HALO Trust, International Trust Fund – Enhancing Human Security (ITF), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Gemeinsam Gegen Landminen, and Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD).

12. A list of all delegations and delegates to the Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.16/2017/INF.1.

#### **IV. Work of the Meeting**

13. The Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties held eight plenary sessions from 18 to 21 December 2017. During the first, third and fourth plenary sessions, on 18 and 19 December 2017, States Parties and observer delegations delivered statements or submitted written declarations of a general nature.

14. At the second and third plenary sessions, the States Parties that had submitted requests for extensions in accordance with article 5, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Convention, Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, and Zimbabwe, presented their requests, the executive summaries of which are contained in documents APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.15, APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.3, APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.3/Corr.1, APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.16, APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.9, and APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.13 respectively. In addition, Zambia, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation presented analyses and/or observations relating to each request for extension to Article 5 deadline, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.2, APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.4, APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.6, APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.10, and APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.14 respectively. In addition, States Parties and organizations discussed the situation of Ukraine with respect to article 5 implementation.

15. During its fourth through eighth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the operation and status of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention's goals and in the application of the Maputo Action Plan 2015-2019 and the Maputo+15 Declaration.

16. A panel titled "Keeping People at the Heart of the Convention: Effective Victim Assistance" was opened on 19 December 2017 by HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium, Special Envoy of the Convention. The panel was moderated by Ambassador Beatriz Londoño, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance, and featured Elke Hottentot, Victim Assistance Technical Advisor, Handicap International; Firoz Alizada, Campaign and

Communications Manager, International Campaign to Ban Landmines; and Kenneth Rutherford, Director, Center for International Stabilization and Recovery, James Madison University.

17. At the fourth and fifth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance. In particular, Colombia, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee presented the report of the Committee's work and its conclusions as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/4 and APLC/MSP.16/2017/4/Add.1 to APLC/MSP.16/2017/4/Add.5. Updates were provided by States Parties responsible for significant numbers of landmine survivors on their efforts to fulfil obligations and on the steps they have taken to implement the victim assistance actions of the Maputo Action Plan, as well as by other interested States and organisations. The Meeting expressed concern about the increased number of victims of anti-personnel mines in different parts of the world.

18. At the fourth and fifth plenary sessions the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. In particular, Zambia, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee presented the report on the Committee's work as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/3, and APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.1 to APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.6. Updates were provided by States Parties that are still in the process of clearing mined areas pursuant to article 5 of the Convention, as well as by other interested States and organisations. The Meeting welcomed and noted with appreciation the declaration of completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations submitted by Algeria, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/MISC.1

19. At the fifth and sixth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. In particular, Netherlands, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee presented the report of the Committee's work and its conclusions and recommendations as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/6. States Parties and other interested States and organisations provided views on cooperation and assistance and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee.

20. At the seventh plenary session the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. In particular, the President, in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee presented the reports on the Committees' work, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/5. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

21. Also in the context of the consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting discussed progress made and challenges that remain in destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines and considered, in particular, document APLC/MSP.16/2017/7, as presented by the President. Updates were provided by State Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organisations. The Meeting warmly welcomed the announcement by Belarus of the completion of its article 4 obligations.

22. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed actions that had been undertaken since the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties in the pursuit of the universalization of the Convention, and considered, in particular, document APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.8, as presented by the President. Updates were provided by State Parties, States not parties, as well as by interested organisations.

23. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed the transparency reporting responsibilities of the States Parties pursuant to article 7 of the Convention and considered, in particular, document APLC/MSP.16/2017/10, as presented by the President.

24. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” and the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”<sup>2</sup>, which instructed the ISU to propose and present every year a work plan and detailed yearly budget for the ensuing year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval, the Meeting considered the “Implementation Support Unit 2018 Work Plan and Budget”, presented by the Director of the ISU and endorsed by the Coordinating Committee, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.1.

25. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, in recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, which tasked the ISU to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties and to submit an audited annual financial report for the previous year and a preliminary annual financial report for the present year to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting considered an “Interim report on the 2017 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)” presented by the Director of the ISU, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.5, as well as the “Report of the independent auditor on the balance sheet and the expenditures and revenues statement of the Trust Fund for the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention” as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.7.

26. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, recalling the “Implementation Support Unit Four-Year Work Plan and Budget 2016-2019” adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties and in which the States Parties agreed “to hold a mid-term review of this work plan during the Sixteenth Meeting”, the Meeting considered the Implementation Support Unit Four-Year Work Plan 2016-2019 Midterm Review, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/8.

27. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, recalling the decision by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties requesting the President to conduct informal administrative consultations with the Presidents of other relevant instruments and with the Heads of other relevant ISU’s with a view to identify possible ways to enhance efficiency and further reduce costs, and to report on opportunities for cost-savings through cooperation as soon as practical but not later than at the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting considered in particular document APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.12 “Opportunities for cost-savings through cooperation between Implementation Support Units (ISUs)”, as presented by the President, taking into account different views of the participating States.

28. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting discussed the status of the assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention by States Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings pursuant to article 14 of the Convention and the budget deficit resulting from outstanding unpaid balances, as well as measures to ensure sustainable financing for the meetings.

29. Also in the context of the consideration of the the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting considered the report of the Sponsorship Coordinator on the Sponsorship Programme. The Meeting noted the urgent need for more States Parties, which are in a position to do so, to contribute to this Programme in 2018, to ensure broad participation in the 2018 intersessional meetings and the Seventeenth Meeting of States

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<sup>2</sup> APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.1

Parties in Geneva, Switzerland. The Meeting noted that continuing to give mine-affected States Parties a strong voice in the future direction of the Convention through the Sponsorship Programme is critical.

## V. Decisions and Recommendations

30. On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention, the States Parties reaffirmed the determination of the States Parties to the Convention to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines and their aspiration to meet the goals of the Convention to the fullest extent possible by 2025. In keeping with the Maputo Declaration, the Meeting condemned the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor.

31. In the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and its universalization, the Meeting took note of the report by the President on the status of universalization of the Convention, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.8, and the activities by the President to promote the universalization of the Convention and its norms. The Meeting also took note of the establishment, pursuant to the relevant decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties, of the informal working group on the universalization of the Convention. The Meeting called upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

32. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that had indicated having a responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors, as well as the activity report of the Committee on Victim Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/4 and APLC/MSP.16/2017/4/Add.1 to APLC/MSP.16/2017/4/Add.5, and took note of the conclusions contained therein.

33. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the report of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/3 and APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.1 to APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.6, and took note of the conclusions contained therein.

34. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and taking into account the analyses presented by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation of the requests submitted under article 5 of the Convention and the requests themselves, the Meeting took the following decisions:

### ***Decision on the request submitted by Angola***

i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Angola for an extension of Angola's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2025.

ii. The Meeting expressed concern at the late submission of Angola's request for extension and noted that in order to function appropriately this process requires requests to be submitted nine months prior to the meeting during which they would be considered in order for an analysis of the request to be prepared and for a cooperative exchange between the requesting State and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to take place.

iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Angola had not fully complied with the principle commitments it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, it is positive that Angola has made significant progress in garnering an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge.

iv. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Angola ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting further encouraged Angola to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Angola fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Angola in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Angola in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Angola continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.

v. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Angola was projecting that it would need approximately eight years to address its remaining challenge. The Meeting, in recalling that the implementation of Angola's national demining plan may be affected by new information, the level of resources obtained and the amount of external and internal capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Meeting requested that Angola submit to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Meeting requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organizations, and a revised detailed budget.

vi. Also, in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as Angola has made it clear that the provision of external support is necessary to fully implement the plan contained within its request, Angola could inspire greater confidence on the part of those in a position to provide assistance by providing as soon as possible clarity regarding estimated costs for implementation and clarifying the costs that Angola's State budget would cover as part of the overall costs of implementation.

vii. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that as the success of the plan is contingent upon the findings of survey efforts, increased funding, increased capacity, coordination between national entities, the Convention would benefit from Angola informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following:

- (a) The outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Angola's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
- (b) Progress made relative to the annual clearance plans, commitments and milestones contained in Angola's extension request;
- (c) The number, location and size of remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and nontechnical survey;
- (d) Progress made regarding efforts to resolve and eliminate problems related to data discrepancies, harmonization of the data of the Executive Demining Commission and the National Demining Institute and efforts to ensure the integrity of the national mine action database;
- (e) Efforts made to strengthen the implementation of the quality management system and results of efforts to update the norms and standards of management and quality control;
- (f) Efforts made to strengthen the involvement and the coordination of activities with the CED, and the result of these efforts;



- (g) Efforts made to strengthen the technical and operational capacities of the operations office in planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- (h) Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Angola to support implementation efforts, and the results of these efforts; including efforts to ensure that mine action is considered within national development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit Angola's resource mobilisation efforts.

viii. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Angola reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

***Decision on the request submitted by Ecuador***

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Ecuador for an extension of Ecuador's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2022.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Ecuador had not complied with the principle commitment it had made in its initial extension request, as recorded in the decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by 1 October 2017, it is positive that Ecuador has made continuous progress.
- iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Ecuador was projecting that it would need approximately five years to complete the survey of suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas and carry out the handover of cleared land. The Meeting, in recalling that the implementation of Ecuador's national demining plan may be affected by new information the level of resources obtained and the amount of internal capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Meeting requested that Ecuador submit by 30 April 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Meeting requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and a detailed updated budget.
- iv. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ecuador ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting further encouraged Ecuador to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Ecuador fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Ecuador in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Ecuador in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Ecuador continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.
- v. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that as the success of the plan is contingent upon the findings of survey efforts and environmental challenges faced by Ecuador, the Convention would benefit from Ecuador informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following:

- (a) Progress made relative to the commitments and timelines contain in section 11 of its extension request and the results of these efforts;
- (b) Outcome of survey and clearance efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ecuador's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge and priorities for clearance;
- (c) Progress made relative to the commitment and timelines to carry out quality control of cleared areas to complete the process of delivery of land that has been cleared since 2000 to the local community and the results of these efforts;
- (d) Efforts undertaken to reach out to international entities to achieve Ecuador's desired outcome to conclude implementation well in advance of its requested extension deadline and the results of these effort.

vi. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Ecuador reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

***Decision on the request submitted by Iraq***

(i) The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Iraq for an extension of Iraq's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 February 2028.

(ii) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that even with a consistent and sizeable effort having been undertaken by Iraq going back even before entry into force of the Convention, Iraq faces a significant remaining contamination challenge in order to fulfil its obligations under Article 5.

(iii) The Meeting, in recalling that the implementation of Iraq's national demining plan may be affected by changing circumstances, the level of resources obtained and the amount of external and internal capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Meeting requested that Iraq submit to the Fourth Review Conference in 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request and every two years following this. The Meeting requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and a revised detailed updated budget.

(iv) The Meeting, in recalling that Iraq had indicated that it was in the process of preparing a plan for non-technical survey operations and that emergency non-technical survey operations were ongoing noted that the Convention could benefit from Iraq submitting to the States Parties, by 30 April 2018, plans for NTS in the different areas of the country including NTS plans for areas liberated from ISIS.

(v) In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Iraq ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting further encouraged Iraq to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Iraq fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Iraq in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Iraq in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Iraq continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.

(vi) The Meeting noted that, given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Iraq could benefit from developing a resource mobilisation strategy, in part by providing additional clarity regarding estimated costs for implementation. The Meeting further noted that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Iraq could benefit from clarifying the costs that Iraq's State budget would cover as part of the overall costs of implementation. The Meeting noted that it would be useful if Iraq could further break down the costs of operation to offer more clarity on the reasons for the significant difference in costs of implementation.

(vii) The Meeting noted that the plan is ambitious, and that success is contingent upon increased funding, the maintenance of security, and changes in the political climate to enable access to those hazardous areas near international borders. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the States Parties would benefit from Iraq reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- (a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Iraq's two-year work plan during the extension period;
- (b) Efforts by the DMA to prepare a plan for NTS operations and milestones to be achieved as well as the milestones to be achieved in the plans that the request indicates have been prepared for NTS of the areas liberated from ISIS groups;
- (c) Geographically specific information on the implementation of survey plans, locations and the results of these efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Iraq's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
- (d) Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- (e) Efforts to resolve political issues which prevent the carrying out of mine action activities in border areas of Iraq;
- (f) Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Iraq to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and expanding of indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

(viii) The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Iraq reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

***Decision on the request submitted by Thailand***

i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Thailand for an extension of Thailand's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 October 2023.

ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Thailand had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by its deadline in 2018, Thailand has made commendable progress and has committed to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.

iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Thailand was projecting that it would need approximately five years to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Meeting, in recalling that the implementation of Thailand's national demining plan may be affected by pending survey and demarcation of land boundaries, and noting Thailand's commitment to submit an update work plan by the end of Phase 1 of its presented plan, the Meeting requested that Thailand submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Meeting requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organizations, and a revised detailed budget.

iv. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Thailand ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting further encouraged Thailand to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Thailand fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Thailand in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Thailand in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Thailand continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.

v. The Meeting noted the commitment made by Thailand to employ more efficient working methods and expanding of its civilian demining capacity. The Meeting further noted the commitment made by Thailand to work with its neighbours to address mined areas located in border areas.

vi. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while the plan presented by Thailand is workable, ambitious and lends itself well to be monitored its success is contingent upon negotiations on areas to be demarcated, the expansion of the demining programme, the application of non-technical survey and extending the pilot project in an effort to use the full range of practical methods to release areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Thailand informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following:

- (a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Work Plan contained in Thailand's request;
- (b) Update on efforts put forth during Phase 1 of Thailand's Plan of Work to prepare for Phase 2 of the Work Plan including the progress of negotiations in order to address Areas to be Demarcated;
- (c) The outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Thailand's estimation of the remaining implementation challenge;
- (d) Update on progress in updating the National Mine Action Standards to be in line with the latest version of IMAS and the results of this effort;
- (e) Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Thailand to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to expand its civilian demining capacity and the results of these effort;
- (f) Updates on efforts to explore new technology to help survey areas with are hard to access near the borders and the results of these efforts;
- (g) Update on efforts to make continuous improvements in the capacity of its information management team, systems and processes to enable more precise information on survey and clearance operations to be collected and displayed.

vii. The Meeting further noted the importance, in addition to Thailand reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

***Decision on the request submitted by Zimbabwe***

i. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Zimbabwe for an extension of Zimbabwe's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for extension until 31 December 2025.

ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Zimbabwe had proceeded with implementation in a commendable manner since its last request for an extended deadline was granted in 2014, having garnered an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and developed plans accordingly that project the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5.

iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the States Parties as a whole would benefit from Zimbabwe's commitment to keep the States Parties informed of changes to the work plan. The Meeting further noted both the inclusive approach taken by Zimbabwe in the preparation of its request and the commitment by Zimbabwe to continue this inclusive approach in implementing and revising, as necessary, the plan contained in the extension request.

iv. The Meeting recalled that the implementation of Zimbabwe's national demining plan will be affected by new information, the level of resources obtained, a better understanding of the clearance capacity of new operators as well as new methodologies being implemented and assessed, and the amount of external or internal capacity involved in survey and clearance. The Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Zimbabwe submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2019, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee noted that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, and a revised detailed budget.

v. The Committee further noted that the plan presented by Zimbabwe is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Committee also noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is contingent upon stable funding and other matters creating an environment conducive to increasing the capacity of organizations involved in clearance activities. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Zimbabwe reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- (a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Zimbabwe's annual clearance plan during the extension period;
- (b) Updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards, including land release standards;
- (c) Updated detailed annual plans for the implementation of its extension request based on new information gathered from progress in implementation;

- (d) Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land, including reporting outcomes concerning two pilot projects concerning mechanical Assets and Mine Detection Dogs;
- (e) Progress on Zimbabwe's commitment to relocate the ZIMAC outside of military installations, once the Ministry of Defence obtains required funds;
- (f) Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Zimbabwe to support implementation efforts;
- (g) Information on Zimbabwe's efforts to ensure that mine action is considered within national development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit Zimbabwe's resource mobilisation efforts.

vi. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Zimbabwe reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

#### ***Decision on Ukraine***

35. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention the Meeting recognized the difficult situation in which Ukraine finds itself in since February 2014 with regard to Ukraine's mine clearance obligations under Article 5. The Meeting expressed serious concern that Ukraine remains in a situation of non-compliance with Article 5. The Meeting reiterated its call on Ukraine to submit as soon as possible a request for extension in accordance with the process established by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties<sup>3</sup>. In this regard the Meeting welcomed the commitment by Ukraine to continue to engage with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.

36. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the report of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/6, and took note of the conclusions contained therein.

37. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the activity report of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, as contained in APLC/MSP.156/2017/5 and took note of the observations contained therein.

38. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the update on the progress provided by Greece, and the Report on the status of implementation of article 4 (stockpile destruction), as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/7, and took note of the conclusions contained therein. The Meeting appealed to the States Parties which are in non-compliance with their article 4 obligations, Greece and Ukraine, to intensify efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.

39. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the report on the status of article 7 reporting, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/10. The Meeting expressed concern on the persisting low level of national transparency reporting and reemphasized the benefits that could be obtained in applying the "Guide to reporting", as adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States

<sup>3</sup> APLC/MSP.7/2016/L.3 and APLC/MSP.7/2006/5, paragraph 27.

Parties, and encouraged its use by the States Parties in implementing their article 7 obligations.

40. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting noted with concern the financial situation due to the arrears in payment of assessed contributions and underlined the importance to ensure full compliance with article 14 obligations. The Meeting called upon the States Parties and States not parties participating in the Meetings of the States Parties to address issues arising from outstanding dues and requested the presidency to continue to consult with the view of strengthening financial predictability and sustainability and to report back to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting requested the States Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings of the States Parties to proceed promptly with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment invoices have been received.

41. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” and the relevant decision by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting approved the “Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2018”, as endorsed by the Coordinating Committee and as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.1. In the context of the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, the Meeting also approved the “Interim report on the 2017 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit”, contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.5, the ISU’s 2016 audited financial statement, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.7, and the Implementation Support Unit Four-Year Work Plan 2016-2019 Midterm Review, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/8.

42. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decision on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting approved the apportionment of the 2016 ISU Trust Fund surplus in a manner that ensures that (a) the financial security buffer contains an amount equivalent to one year of expenditures related to core support as provided for in the ISU yearly budget and that (b) the surplus financial means not needed for the financial security buffer are allocated to expenditures related to enhanced support as provided for in the Implementation Support Unit 2018 Work Plan and Budget.

43. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decision on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting agreed that in the drafting of the ISU’s Four-Year work plan 2020-2024 the structure put in place at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties be revisited to ensure the most practical functioning of the ISU.

44. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ relevant decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting took note of the report on “Opportunities for cost-savings through cooperation between Implementation Support Units (ISUs)”, presented by the President, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.12, taking into account different views of the participating States.

45. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ relevant decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting commended the Austrian presidency for organizing, on 28 February 2017, a successful pledging conference for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

46. The Meeting welcomed the interest expressed by States Parties to serve as new members of Committees and decided on the following membership of the Convention’s Committees:

(a) Article 5 Implementation: Chile and Switzerland (until the end of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Colombia and Netherlands (until the end of the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties);

(b) Victim Assistance: Croatia and Ecuador (until the end of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Belgium and Mozambique (until the end of the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties);

(c) Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: Algeria and Canada (until the end of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Sweden and Thailand (until the end of the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties);

(d) Cooperative Compliance: Iraq and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (until the end of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Poland and Zambia (until the end of the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties).

47. The Meeting agreed to hold the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland, the week of 26 to 30 November 2018 and adopted its estimated costs, as contained in APLC/MSP.16/2017/9. The Meeting further agreed to elect the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations in Geneva, Suraya Dalil, President of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, with her term running from the conclusion of the Sixteenth Meeting until the conclusion of the Seventeenth Meeting, as per the relevant decision of the Third Review Conference.

48. The Meeting agreed to set the dates of the intersessional meetings for 7 and 8 June 2018 in Geneva.

## **VI. Documentation**

49. A list of documents of the Sixteenth Meeting is contained in the annex to this report.

## **VII. Adoption of the final report**

50. At its final plenary session, on 21 December 2017, the Meeting adopted its report, as contained in document APLC/MSP.16/2017/CRP.2.



## Annex

### List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.16/2017/1/	Provisional Agenda. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.16/2017/1/Corr.1	Provisional Agenda. Corrigendum. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.16/2017/2	Provisional programme of work. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.16/2017/2/Corr.2	Provisional programme of work. Corrigendum. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.16/2017/3	Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.1	Conclusions. Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Addendum 1
APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.2	Conclusions. Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Addendum 2
APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.3	Conclusions. Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Addendum 3
APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.4	Conclusions. Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Addendum 4
APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.5	Conclusions. Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Addendum 5
APLC/MSP.16/2017/3/Add.6	Conclusions. Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Addendum 6
APLC/MSP.16/2017/4	Conclusions and recommendations. Committee on Victim Assistance
APLC/MSP.16/2017/4.Add.1	Conclusions and recommendations. Committee on Victim Assistance. Addendum 1
APLC/MSP.16/2017/4.Add.2	Conclusions and recommendations. Committee on Victim Assistance. Addendum 2
APLC/MSP.16/2017/4.Add.3	Conclusions and recommendations. Committee on Victim Assistance. Addendum 3
APLC/MSP.16/2017/4.Add.4	Conclusions and recommendations. Committee on Victim Assistance. Addendum 4
APLC/MSP.16/2017/4.Add.5	Conclusions and recommendations. Committee on Cooperative Compliance. Submitted by the President.
APLC/MSP.16/2017/5	Conclusions of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. Submitted by the President

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.16/2017/6	Conclusions and of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
APLC/MSP.16/2017/7	Conclusions on the Status of Implementation of Article 4 (stockpile destruction) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
APLC/MSP.16/2017/8	Implementation Support Unit Four-Year Work Plan 2016-2019. Midterm Review
APLC/MSP.16/2017/9	Estimated costs for the Seventeenth Meeting 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
APLC/MSP.16/2017/10	Status of Article 7 Reporting. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.16/2017/11	Final report
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.1	Interim report on the 2016 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.2	Analysis of the request submitted by Angola for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.3	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Ecuador
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.3/Corr.1	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Ecuador. Corrigendum
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.4	Analysis of the request submitted by Ecuador for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.5	2017 Activities, functioning and finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.6	Analysis of the request submitted by Iraq for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.7	Trust Fund Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (ISU)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
	APMBC)
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.8	Status of Universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Presented by the President
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.9	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Thailand
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.10	Analysis of the request submitted by Thailand for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.11/Corr.1	Trust Fund ISU APMBC. Corrigendum
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.12	Opportunities for cost-savings through cooperation between Implementation Support Units (ISUs). Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.13	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Zimbabwe
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.14	Analysis of the request submitted by Zimbabwe for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.15	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Angola
APLC/MSP.16/2017/WP.16	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Iraq
APLC/MSP.16/2016/INF.1	List of Participants
APLC/MSP.17/2018/MISC.1	Déclaration d'achèvement de la mise en œuvre de l'article 5 de la Convention internationale sur l'interdiction de l'emploi, du stockage, de la production et du transfert des mines antipersonnel, et sur leur destruction. Présentée par l'Algérie