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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**

APLC/MSP.8/2007/6
30 January 2008

Original: ENGLISH

Eighth Meeting

Dead Sea, 18– 22 November 2007

Item 18 of the agenda

Consideration and adoption of the final document

FINAL REPORT

The Final Report of the Eighth 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 consists of two parts and five annexes as follows:

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- D. Work of the Meeting
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PART I

ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

A. 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, including:

- (a) The operation and status of this Convention;
- (b) Matters arising from the reports submitted under the provisions of this Convention;
- (c) International cooperation and assistance in accordance with Article 6;
- (d) The development of technologies to clear anti-personnel mines;
- (e) Submissions of States Parties under Article 8; and
- (f) Decisions relating to submissions of States parties as provided for in Article 5; and,

Meetings subsequent to the First Meeting of the States Parties “shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations annually until the first Review Conference”.

2. At the 29 November–3 December 2004 First Review Conference, the States Parties agreed to hold annually, until the Second Review Conference, a Meeting of the States Parties which will regularly take place in the second half of the year, as contained in paragraph 32 (a) of its Final Report (APLC/CONF/2004/5). At the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, held in Geneva from 18 to 22 September 2006, it was agreed to hold the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties in Jordan from 18 to 22 November 2007, as contained in paragraph 29 of the Final Report (APLC/MSP.7/2006/5).

3. To prepare for the Eighth Meeting, in keeping with past practice, at the April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention a provisional agenda, provisional programme of work, draft rules of procedure and draft cost estimates were presented. Based upon discussions at that meeting, it was the sense of the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention that these documents were generally acceptable to the States Parties to be put before the Eighth Meeting for adoption.

4. To seek views on matters of substance, the President-Designate convened an informal meeting in Geneva on 28 August 2007 to which all States Parties and interested organizations were invited to participate.

5. The opening of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties was preceded on 17 November 2007 by a ceremony at which a statement was delivered by Chief Chamberlain His Royal Highness Prince Raad Ben Zeid on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan. In

addition, statements were delivered by His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan in his capacity as Chair of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, landmine survivor Mr. Suleiman Ghnaimat, and, landmine survivor Ms. Song Kosal.

B. Organization of the Meeting

6. The Eighth Meeting of the States Parties was opened on 18 November 2007 by Her Excellency, Ambassador Caroline Millar of Australia, President of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. Ambassador Millar presided over the election of the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting elected by acclamation His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan as its President in accordance with rule 5 of the Rules of procedure.

7. At the opening session, a message was delivered by Mr. Sergio Duarte, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary General of the United Nations. In addition, messages were delivered by the following: Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium; Mr. Olivier Vodoz, Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Ms. Jody Williams, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize laureate; and, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

8. At its first plenary meeting on 18 November 2007, the Eighth Meeting adopted its agenda as contained in Annex I to this report. On the same occasion, the meeting adopted its Rules of procedure as contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/5*, the estimated costs for convening the Eighth Meeting as contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/4*, and its programme of work as contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/2**.

9. Also at its first plenary meeting, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Chile, Estonia, Italy, Norway and Sudan were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Eighth Meeting.

10. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of Mr. Ayman Al-Amery, Director of International Relations and Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, as Secretary-General of the Meeting. The Meeting also took note of the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General of Mr. Tim Caughley, Director of the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, as Executive Secretary of the Meeting, and the appointment by the President of Mr. Kerry Brinkert, Manager of the Implementation Support Unit, as the President's Executive Coordinator.

C. Participation in the Meeting

11. The following 91 States Parties participated in the Meeting: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras,

Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

12. The following three States that had acceded to the Convention, but for which the Convention had not yet entered into force, 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: Iraq, Kuwait and Palau.

13. The following signatory that has not ratified the Convention participated in the Meeting as an observer, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules of procedure of the Meeting: Poland.

14. The following 19 States not parties to the Convention 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: Armenia, Bahrain, China, Egypt, Finland, Georgia, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, and Viet Nam.

15. 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: European Commission, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, League of Arab States (LAS), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization of American States (OAS), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

16. 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: Anti Mine Association, Cleared Ground Demining, Cranfield University Resilience Centre, International Peace Research Institute (PRIO), International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF), James Madison University Mine Action Information Center (JMU), NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA), and Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD).

17. A list of all delegations and delegates to the Eighth Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/INF.2.

D. Work of the Meeting

18. The Eighth Meeting held nine plenary sessions from 18-22 November 2007 and one informal session on 20 November 2007. The first one and a half plenary sessions featured the general exchange of views under agenda item 10. Several States Parties, observer States and observer organizations made statements in the general exchange of views or otherwise made written statements of a general nature available.

19. At its first plenary session, the Meeting welcomed the presentation by the Minister of State of Palau of Palau's instrument of accession.

20. At its second through eighth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the general status and operation of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention's aims and in the application of the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009. In this regard, the Meeting warmly welcomed the Dead Sea Progress Report 2006-2007, as contained in Part II of this report, as an important means to support the application of the *Nairobi Action Plan* by measuring progress made during the period 22 September 2006 to 22 November 2007 and highlighting priority areas of work for the States Parties, the Co-Chairs and the Convention's President in the period between the Eighth and the Ninth Meetings of the States Parties.

21. In the course of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting considered a Proposal to Amend Forms B and G of the Article 7 Reporting Format, contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/L.2, and, a Proposed Template for Assisting States Parties in Requesting an Extension under Article 5, contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/3*.

22. At its eighth plenary session, the Meeting noted the Director of the GICHD's Report on the Functioning of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), contained in Annex IV to this report. States Parties expressed their appreciation to the GICHD for the manner in which the ISU is making a positive contribution in support of the States Parties' efforts to implement the Convention.

23. Also at its eighth plenary session, the States Parties again recognized the value and importance of the Coordinating Committee in the effective functioning and implementation of the Convention and for operating in an open and transparent manner. In addition, the Meeting again noted the work undertaken by interested States Parties through the Sponsorship Programme, which continues to ensure widespread representation at meetings of the Convention.

24. At its ninth plenary session, the Meeting considered matters pertaining to reporting under Article 7 of the Convention. All States Parties were encouraged to place a continued emphasis on ensuring reports are submitted as required by forwarding reports to the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

25. Also at its ninth plenary session, the Meeting considered the submission of requests under Article 5 of the Convention. The President notified the Meeting that he had not been informed that any state wished to make such a request at the Eighth Meeting. The Meeting took note of this. The President also recalled that those States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in 2009 which will need to request an extension have been encouraged to submit their requests in March 2008 for consideration at the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties.

26. Also at its ninth plenary session, the Meeting considered the submission of requests under Article 8 of the Convention. The President notified the Meeting that he had not been informed that any state wished to make such a request at the Eighth Meeting. The Meeting took note of this.

27. At its informal session, the Meeting discussed practical ways to overcoming challenges in implementing Article 5. This discussion highlighted 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. In addition, this discussion highlighted that ensuring a sustainable and adequate resource flow remains an important issue for many States Parties, and, that both States Parties implementing Article 5 and those in a position to provide assistance can take some practical steps to help mobilise and efficiently utilize resources.

E. Decisions and Recommendations

28. At its final plenary session, pursuant to consultations undertaken by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the Meeting agreed to set the dates of the 2008 meetings of the Standing Committees from 2-6 June 2008 and identified the following States Parties as the Standing Committee Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs until the end of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties:

Mine Clearance, Mine-Risk Education and Mine-Action Technologies: Canada and Peru (Co-Chairs); Argentina and Australia (Co-Rapporteurs);

Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration: Cambodia and New Zealand (Co-Chairs); Belgium and Thailand (Co-Rapporteurs);

Stockpile Destruction: Lithuania and Serbia (Co-Chairs); Italy and Zambia (Co-Rapporteurs);

General Status and Operation of the Convention: Germany and Kenya (Co-Chairs); Chile and Japan (Co-Rapporteurs).

29. Also at its final plenary session, with a view to facilitating reporting of stockpiled anti-personnel mines discovered and destroyed after Article 4 deadlines have passed, the Meeting adopted amendments to the Article 7 reporting format, as contained in Annex II.

30. Also at its final plenary session, the Meeting recalled that the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties agreed to work further on the voluntary template proposed as the basis to facilitate preparation and assessment of extension requests with a view to its finalisation by the conclusion

of the 2007 intersessional meetings so to enable its voluntary implementation until its formal adoption at the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties. In this context, the Meeting adopted the voluntary template for assisting States Parties in requesting an extension under Article 5, as contained in Annex III.

31. Also at its final plenary session, the Meeting agreed to designate His Excellency, Ambassador Jurg Streuli of Switzerland President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties and decided to hold the Ninth Meeting in Geneva the week of 24-28 November 2008.

F. Documentation

32. A list of documents of the Eighth Meeting is contained in Annex V to this Final Report. These documents are available in all official languages through the United Nations Official Documents System (<http://documents.un.org>).

G. Adoption of the Final Report and conclusion of the Meeting

33. At its final plenary session, on 22 November 2007, the Meeting adopted its draft report, contained in document APLC/MSP.8/2007/CRP.1, as orally amended, which is being issued as document APLC/MSP.8/2007/6.

PART II

ACHIEVING THE AIMS OF THE NAIROBI ACTION PLAN: THE DEAD SEA PROGRESS REPORT 2006-2007

Introduction

1. On December 3, 2004 at the First Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (hereinafter “the Convention”) the States Parties adopted the **Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009**. In doing so, the States Parties “reaffirmed their unqualified commitment to the full and effective promotion and implementation of the Convention,” and their determination “to secure the achievements to date, to sustain and strengthen the effectiveness of their cooperation under the Convention, and to spare no effort to meet (their) challenges ahead in universalizing the Convention, destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines, clearing mined areas and assisting victims.”¹

2. The **Nairobi Action Plan**, with its 70 specific action points, lays out a comprehensive framework for the period 2005-2009 for achieving major progress towards ending, for all people for all time, the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. In doing so, it underscores the supremacy of the Convention and provides the States Parties with guidance in fulfilling their Convention obligations. To ensure the effectiveness of the *Nairobi Action Plan* as a means of guidance, the States Parties acknowledge the need to regularly monitor progress in the pursuit of the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* and to identify challenges that remain.

3. The purpose of the **Dead Sea Progress Report** is to support the application of the **Nairobi Action Plan** by measuring progress made during the period 22 September 2006 to 22 November 2007. While all 70 points in the **Nairobi Action Plan** remain equally important and should be acted upon, the **Dead Sea Progress Report** aims to highlight priority areas of work for the States Parties, the Co-Chairs and the Convention’s President in the period between the Eighth and the Ninth Meetings of the States Parties (9MSP). It is the third in a series of annual progress reports prepared by Presidents of Meetings of the States Parties in advance of the 2009 Second Review Conference.

I. Universalizing the Convention

4. At the close of the 18-22 September 2006 Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP), 151 States had deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession and the Convention had entered into force for 150 of these States. Since that time, the Convention entered into force for **Brunei Darussalam** (on 1 October 2006). On 23 October 2006 **Montenegro** deposited its instrument of succession and the Convention entered into force for it on 1 April 2007 and on 16 February 2007 **Indonesia** deposited its instrument of ratification and the Convention entered into force for it on 1 August 2007. In addition, instruments of accession were deposited by **Kuwait** on 30 July 2007, by **Iraq** on 15 August 2007 and by **Palau** on 18 November 2007. There are now 156 States which have deposited instruments of ratification,

¹ **Nairobi Action Plan** (APLC/CONF/2004/5, Part III) Introduction.

acceptance, approval, accession or succession. The Convention has entered into force for 153 of these States. (See Appendix I)

5. Progress towards accession was made by some other States. At the 23 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, **Mongolia** announced that it had taken a significant step towards accession by passing a law declassifying information on landmines. Mongolia subsequently submitted a voluntary transparency report containing all relevant information which States Parties are required to provide under Article 7. In addition, **Nepal** indicated that it would consider submitting a voluntary Article 7 transparency report and **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, in May 2007, indicated that it may consider accession in the near future. As well, on 12 June 2007 **Bahrain** announced that it would soon accede to the Convention.

6. Since the 7MSP, States Parties promoted adherence to the Convention by States not parties in accordance with Actions #1-#6 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**. The President of the 7MSP issued the **Action Plan to Universalise and Implement the Mine Ban Convention**, setting out commitments to promote the Convention bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally. In accordance with her plan, the President wrote to States not parties encouraging ratification or accession to the Convention without delay. The President promoted the **Action Plan to Universalise and Implement the Mine Ban Convention** at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in October 2006 including by presenting the work of the Convention and the outcomes of the 7MSP to New York-based disarmament delegations, which was an event attended by a number of States not parties. The 7MSP Presidency conducted bilateral outreach to each remaining signatory State, including through a visit by Australia's Special Representative for Mine Action to Warsaw in September 2006, urging these States to proceed swiftly to ratification. In addition, the 7MSP Presidency and Vanuatu convened a workshop in May 2007 intended to advance universalisation and implementation of the Convention in the Pacific.

7. Canada, along with coordinating the Universalization Contact Group, undertook missions to Nepal, Laos and Kazakhstan to promote acceptance of the Convention. In addition, in March 2007 Canada and Cambodia organized a regional workshop in Phnom Penh, and, Canada, Slovenia, and the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) supported a similar activity in Almaty with both events intended in part to advance universalization in South East Asia and Central Asia respectively. On the margins of the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees, New Zealand and Jordan again convened regional universalization discussions for the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, respectively.

8. The European Union (EU) announced that it is in the process of agreeing to a EU Joint Action to support the Convention. This would include support being provided for universalization through the organization of up to six regional or sub-regional seminars intended to increase adherence to the Convention and to prepare for the Second Review Conference.

9. States Parties undertook a variety of efforts, in accordance with Action #6 of the **Nairobi Action Plan** to "actively promote adherence to the Convention in all relevant multilateral fora." On 6 December 2006, the international community again expressed its support for the Convention in the UNGA with 161 States, including 20 States not parties, voting in favour of an annual resolution on the implementation and universalization of the Convention. On 27 February

2007 in the Conference on Disarmament, some States Parties marked the eighth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention by calling on States not parties to accede to the Convention without delay. On 5 June 2007, the Organization of American States' General Assembly adopted a resolution urging its member States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Convention.

10. Pursuant to Action #8 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, the United Nations (UN), other institutions and regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and other non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians and interested citizens continued their involvement and active cooperation in universalization efforts. Prominent examples included an appeal made by the United Nations Secretary General on 4 April 2007 to all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Convention and to other international instruments, a workshop for national mine action programme directors convened by the UN in March 2007 to promote adherence to the Convention, visits by the ICBL to Bahrain, India, Kuwait, Nepal, Poland and Vietnam and regional workshops convened by the ICRC in June 2007 in Kuwait City for the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and in September 2007 in Tunis for the States of the Maghreb.

11. Thirty-nine States have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention. Among these are two States – the **Marshall Islands** and **Poland** – which signed the Convention but which have not yet ratified it. While “the desirability of attracting adherence of all States to this Convention”² remains a matter of emphasis for the States Parties, these two signatory States remain of special interest with respect to universalization. **Finland** and **Poland**, the only EU member States that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention, were urged to join the Convention.

12. Also among the thirty-nine States that have not expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention are some that produce, use, transfer and / or maintain large stockpiles of anti-personnel mines. According to the ICBL, two States not parties – **Myanmar** and the **Russian Federation** – made new use of anti-personnel mines since the 7MSP. Also since the 7MSP, one such State not party, **Pakistan**, announced its intention to make new use of anti-personnel mines. In response, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was in Pakistan on an official visit at the time of the announcement, and the President of Afghanistan expressed their States' concerns. In addition the President of the 7MSP wrote to Pakistan to urge it to find other means to secure its borders and a United Nations Security Council mission expressed its concern to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan regarding the possible employment of mines along Pakistan's borders.³ As a result of these initiatives, Pakistan agreed to reconsider its possible actions with respect to mining the border.

13. According to the ICBL, armed non-State actors in eight States (Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Myanmar, Pakistan and the Russian Federation) made new use of anti-personnel mines since the 7MSP.

² Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Preamble.

³ Report of the Security Council Mission to Afghanistan, 11 to 16 November 2006, issued as a document of the United Nations Security Council under symbol S/2006/935.

14. States Parties and other actors continued to advocate for the end to use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by armed non-State actors. Switzerland further pursued its efforts to promote a discussion on the role of States Parties in a position to do so in implementing Nairobi Action Plan Action #46. Several States Parties and the UN expressed their support and / or made financial commitments to the Geneva Call for its work to engage armed non-State actors and promote their adherence to the Convention's norms. The Geneva Call obtained further signings of its *Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action* since the 7MSP. States Parties are of the view that, when engagement by non-governmental organizations of armed non-State actors is considered, vigilance is required to prevent those organizations which carry out terrorist acts, or promote them, from exploiting the Ottawa Process for their own goals. With respect to one previous signing, one State Party again noted with concern that the Geneva Call proceeded in a manner not consistent with paragraph 17 of the Zagreb Progress Report which states:

“Also in this context, as rights and obligations enshrined in the Convention and commitments in the *Nairobi Action Plan* apply to States Parties, some States Parties are of the view that when engagement with armed non-state actors is contemplated, States Parties concerned should be informed, and their consent would be necessary in order for such an engagement to take place.”

Priorities for the period leading to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

15. States Parties must turn their commitment to universalization into action in accordance with Actions #1 to #8 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, particularly given the extent of the challenges that remain. States not parties should continue to be approached on a case specific basis. And pending their adherence to the Convention, they should be encouraged to participate as observers in Convention meetings and to implement voluntarily the Convention's provisions. While voluntary compliance with provisions of the Convention may be recognized as first steps towards ratification of or accession to it, such steps should not be used to postpone formal adherence.

16. Given the progress made since the 7MSP and the challenges that remain, in the period leading to the next Meeting of the States Parties priorities should be as follows:

- (i) 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. As discussed by the Universalization Contact Group, these include: Bahrain, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nepal, Oman, Poland, Tonga, Tuvalu and the United Arab Emirates.**
- (ii) In keeping with Action #3 of the Nairobi Action Plan, 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.**

- (iii) **Further to Actions #5 and #6 of the Nairobi Action Plan, 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.**

II. Destroying Stockpiled Anti-Personnel Mines

17. At the close of the 7MSP, it was reported that the obligation, contained in Article 4 of the Convention, to destroy or ensure the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, may remain relevant for 12 States Parties. Since that time, **Afghanistan, Angola, Cyprus and Serbia** reported that they had fulfilled their Article 4 obligation, information was made available indicating that **Montenegro** transferred its entire stock of anti-personnel mines to Serbia for destruction, **Guyana** submitted its initial transparency report clarifying that it does not possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines, and **Indonesia** – a State which had previously indicated that it possessed stockpiled anti-personnel mines – ratified the Convention. In addition, information was made available which indicated that one State Party, **Cape Verde**, which was presumed not to have held stockpiled anti-personnel mines, indeed did hold them and ensured their destruction in 2006. Hence, the obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines remains relevant for eight States Parties: **Belarus, Burundi, Ethiopia, Greece, Indonesia, Sudan, Turkey and Ukraine**. Timelines for States Parties to complete stockpile destruction in accordance with Article 4 are in Appendix II.

18. 145 States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention now no longer hold stocks of anti-personnel mines, either because they never did or because they have completed their destruction programmes. Together the States Parties have reported the destruction of approximately 40 million stockpiled mines.

19. While the number of States Parties which must fulfil Article 4 obligations is small, serious challenges remain. At the 23 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction **Afghanistan** reported that, while it had destroyed almost 500,000 stockpiled anti-personnel mines, two depots of anti-personnel mines remained in the Panjshir Valley north of the Afghan capital. Although Afghanistan was unable to fulfill its obligations within its proscribed four year time period after entry into force, Afghanistan continued its efforts and on 11 October 2007 announced that the physical verification to confirm that stockpiled anti-personnel mines no longer existed in Panjshir Valley had been concluded, thus ensuring compliance by Afghanistan with its Article 4 obligations. Afghanistan further reported that its efforts to fulfil its Article 4 obligations had resulted in the destruction of over half a million stockpiled anti-personnel mines and it restated its unwavering commitment to the Convention.

20. At the 23 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, **Belarus** expressed concern with regard to its PFM-1 type mine destruction programme, indicating that in November 2006 the tendering process necessary to choose an operator to proceed with destruction failed due to a lack of bids meeting the technical and procedural conditions of tender. Belarus indicated that it therefore is unlikely to meet its 1 March 2008 deadline. The gravity of this situation was underscored by the fact that Belarus has reported that over three million anti-personnel mines await destruction. Belarus and the European

Commission nonetheless remain committed to continue cooperation with the goal of destroying all PFM-1 mines in Belarus.

21. The complications with efforts associated with the destruction of stockpiled mines by Belarus illustrates that, in addition to technical challenges with the destruction of PFM-1 mines, a challenge remains in arriving at a fruitful conclusion on matters concerning cooperation and assistance. With respect to this and other related matters, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction recalled that Article 6, paragraph 8 states “each State Party giving and receiving assistance under the provisions of this Article shall cooperate with a view to ensuring the full and prompt implementation of agreed assistance programs.” It was noted that arriving at a fruitful conclusion on matters concerning cooperation and assistance in the destruction of PFM-1 mines also remained relevant for **Ukraine**. The gravity of this situation was underscored by the fact that Ukraine has reported that more than six million anti-personnel mines await destruction.

22. One State Party, **Ethiopia**, for which it is assumed possesses, and hence must destroy, stockpiled anti-personnel mines, remains overdue in providing an initial transparency report as required. The information in such a report would provide clarity on all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by this State Party, on the status of programmes for destroying these mines and on the types and quantities of mines destroyed after entry into force. In addition, four States Parties – **Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Haiti, and Sao Tome and Principe** – for which it is assumed do not possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines, are overdue in providing an initial transparency report. The information in such reports could confirm or correct the record with respect to the assumption that stocks are not held. As well, one State Party, **Cape Verde**, for which information has emerged indicating that it indeed held stocks and that these have been destroyed, is overdue in providing an initial transparency report to clarify the types and quantities of mines destroyed after entry into force.

23. States Parties continued to discuss the commitment they made in Action #15 of the **Nairobi Action Plan** to report previously unknown stockpiles discovered after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed in accordance with their obligations under Article 7, to take advantage of other informal means to share such information and to destroy these mines as a matter of urgent priority. Two States Parties, **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Yemen**, provided clarity on such matters at the 23-24 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction and Bosnia and Herzegovina provided an update on such matters in the transparency report it submitted in 2007. With a view to facilitating better reporting on stockpiled anti-personnel mines discovered after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed or completion of destruction has been officially reported, the Co-Chairs proposed amendments to Forms B and G of the Article 7 reporting format.

24. The need to give due regard to the destruction of stockpiled mines belonging to armed non-State actors that have committed to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines was again raised. The UN reported that since the 7MSP it had assisted one signatory of the Geneva Call’s **Deed of Commitment** in the destruction of more than 3,000 stockpiled anti-personnel mines. It was noted that in other instances assistance may also be required and that the prompt destruction of such mines was important to prevent them from being stolen or abandoned.

Priorities for the period leading to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

25. While the list is short in terms of the number of States Parties for which Article 4 remains relevant, the list is long in terms of the number of outstanding challenges related to implementation. All States Parties must act to comply with their deadlines, placing a priority in the period leading to the next Meeting of the States Parties on the following:

- (i) **States Parties with deadlines for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines which occur prior to the 9MSP should, in accordance with their Convention obligations and as emphasized in Action #11 of the Nairobi Action Plan, ensure that they complete their destruction programmes on time and others should aim to do so, if possible, in advance of their four year deadlines.**
- (ii) **States Parties in a position to do so should, in accordance with their Convention obligations and as emphasized Action #13 of the Nairobi Action Plan, promptly assist States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support for stockpile destruction, responding promptly to appeals for assistance by States Parties in danger of not meeting deadlines under Article 4.**
- (iii) **All States Parties should place an increased emphasis on the obligation, as it concerns stockpile destruction, 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.**
- (iv) **States Parties should continue to report previously unknown stockpiles discovered after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed or completion of destruction has been officially reported in accordance with their obligations under Article 7, making use of new means to facilitate such reporting and taking advantage of other informal means to share such information, and, destroy these mines as a matter of urgent priority.**

III. Clearing Mined Areas

26. At the close of the 7MSP, it was reported that the obligation, contained in Article 5 of the Convention, to destroy or ensure the destruction of emplaced anti-personnel mines remained relevant for 45 States Parties. Since that time, **Vanuatu** clarified that this obligation indeed is not relevant for it, **Bhutan** submitted its initial transparency report indicating that there are anti-personnel mines in mined areas under Bhutan's jurisdiction or control and **Swaziland** reported that it has fulfilled its Article 5 obligations. Hence, the obligation to destroy or ensure the destruction of emplaced anti-personnel mines remains relevant for 44 States Parties: **Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Rwanda,**

Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Timelines for these States Parties to destroy or ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5 are contained in Annex III.

27. It was recalled that, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, States Parties must “make every effort to identify all areas under (their) jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced” and undertake “to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under (their) jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force of (the) Convention for (a particular) State Party.” It was again noted that the Convention does not contain language requiring each State party to search every square metre of its territory to find mines. But the Convention does require the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas which a State Party has made every effort to identify. Moreover, it was noted that oft-used terms like “mine-free”, “impact-free”, and “mine-safe” do not exist in the Convention text and are not synonymous with Convention obligations.

28. States Parties in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations were again encouraged to provide clarity on national demining plans, progress made, work that remains, and factors that may impede the fulfillment of their obligations in a 10 year period. To facilitate preparations and to assist in the dissemination of information provided by States Parties, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies encouraged relevant States Parties to make use of a questionnaire when preparing their interventions, and held bilateral preparatory meetings with a number of States Parties. At the April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies, more relevant States Parties than ever before – 40 – provided information, some with more clarity than ever before. However few of these States Parties indicated that they have a plan to fulfill their obligations by their deadlines. In addition, it was noted that some States Parties reporting mined areas have not yet reported the destruction of a single mine in such areas.

29. Some States Parties continued to provide little information with respect to the obligation contained in Article 5, paragraph 2, for each State Party to “make every effort to identify all areas under (their) jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced” or otherwise report, as required by Article 7, paragraph 1(c) on such areas. In other instances States Parties reported that progress had been made. For example, **Angola, Mauritania and Senegal** indicated that they had completed Landmine Impact Surveys. **Malawi** started implementing a survey of all areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. **Zambia** indicated that it is on the verge of starting survey activities and **Guinea-Bissau** indicated the same with respect to areas outside of its capital.

30. 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. **Afghanistan** reported that approximately 60 percent of all contaminated land has now been released. **Albania** reported that over 90 percent of all contaminated areas has been released, including 585,000 square metres released in 2007 through technical survey, clearance and area

reduction. **Algeria** reported that as of 31 March 2007 its demining efforts had resulted in the destruction of over 218,000 anti-personnel mines. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** indicated that in 2006 approximately 239 square kilometres of areas known or suspected to contain mines were released. **Cambodia** reported that in 2006 it had cleared more than 51 square kilometres and destroyed more than 76,000 emplaced anti-personnel mines. **Chad** indicated that approximately 57 per cent of mined areas had been released. **Croatia** reported that all areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have been marked with over 12,000 warning signs and that maps containing these areas had been distributed to all administrative units in Croatia and other organizations. **Peru** reported that it had destroyed 61,853 emplaced anti-personnel mines, or over 50 per cent of the number of anti-personnel mines emplaced on Peru's territory. **Sudan** reported that as of March 2007 almost 40 per cent of known dangerous areas had been cleared. **Yemen** indicated that over 53 per cent of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have now been cleared. In addition, **Burundi, Greece, Serbia and Tunisia** indicated that they will be able to fulfil their obligations well in advance of their 10 year deadlines. As well, **Ethiopia** indicated that it does not anticipate that it will need to request an extension on the fulfilment of its obligations, and **Rwanda** expressed confidence that it could comply with its obligations by its deadline if it obtains necessary resources.

31. While significant progress has been achieved by many States Parties in fulfilling their Article 5 obligations, many challenges remain. At the 25-26 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies, the following States Parties noted that obtaining external resources was a challenge: **Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Rwanda, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**

32. It was highlighted that at the 7MSP the States Parties adopted the 7MSP President's proposal concerning a procedure for handling requests for extensions of deadlines for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas.⁴ This procedure was further elaborated through Canada's preparation of a template to assist requesting States Parties in preparing their extension requests.⁵ Since the 7MSP, States Parties began to act upon the decisions taken at the 7MSP. It was noted that the focus of the States Parties must not drift from the imperative to ultimately implement Article 5 and that, if the process agreed to at the 7MSP is applied effectively, it should become a new means to achieve this aim. That is, a prepared, submitted, analysed and considered request is not an end in itself. Rather, it is a means to chart a course forward towards fulfilling important obligations contained in Article 5.

33. 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: **Bosnia and Herzegovina** indicated that despite its best efforts, it will not be in a position to completely fulfill obligations stated under Article 5 of the Convention by its 1 March 2009 deadline. **Chad** indicated that various circumstances mean it

⁴ See Towards the full implementation of Article 5, Annex II to the Final Report of the Seventh Meeting of the States issued under symbol APLC/MSP.7/2006/5.

⁵ See Proposed template for assisting States Parties in requesting an extension under Article 5, Annex III to the Final Report of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties issued under symbol APLC/MSP.7/2006/5.

will need to submit a request for an extension. **Croatia** indicated that it has begun to prepare a request for an extension and that it would need to increase efforts to release mined areas by 50 per cent in order to fulfill Article 5 obligations within a 10 year extension period. **Ecuador** indicated that it hoped in the course of 2007 to formalize its extension request. **Mozambique** indicated that it is proceeding in achieving an interim milestone by the time of its 1 March 2009 deadline – the clearance of what it considers high and medium impact sites. **Nicaragua** reported to the 8MSP that it will request an extension. **Peru** indicated that it is in the process of preparing its request for an extension and shared its experiences from this process. **Senegal** sought advice on the preparation of its request. **Thailand** indicated that despite its best efforts, it appears that an extension request for mine clearance may be inevitable. **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)** indicated that meteorological, environmental and technical problems would make a request for an extension necessary. **Yemen** indicated that its prospective goal is to clear all areas by 2011 or 2012, if it has enough resources. **Zimbabwe** indicated that it will take many years to clear all its mined areas.

34. Of the 19 remaining States Parties with deadlines in 2009 for the fulfilment of obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention, one – **France** indicated that it will destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control no later than 10 years after entry into force of the Convention for this State Party. In addition, **Jordan** indicated that it will do so as well if no unforeseen administrative or technical circumstances emerge to delay the clearance of remaining mined areas. **Uganda** indicated that it will fulfil its obligations no later than 10 years after entry into force of the Convention for it subject to the successful outcome of peace negotiations, the eventual end to conflict and support from like-minded States Parties.

35. Of the 19 remaining States Parties with deadlines in 2009 for the fulfilment of obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention, four – **Denmark, Malawi, Niger** and the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** – have not yet indicated whether 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. The status as it concerns all 19 States Parties with deadlines in 2009 with respect to requests for extensions can be found in Appendix IV. In accordance with Article 5, paragraph 3 of the Convention and in line with the decisions of the 7MSP, States Parties with deadlines in 2009 which are preparing requests will need to have their requests considered at the 9MSP and they are encouraged to submit their requests to the President in March 2008. An overview of timelines for the extensions process as it concerns these and other relevant States Parties can be found in Appendix V.

36. It was observed that the matter of preparing and considering requests for extensions will now be a regular feature of work to implement the Convention and that as with all other aspects of implementation, principles such as clarity, transparency and predictability should be emphasised.

37. States Parties were reminded that they may seek assistance from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) when preparing such requests. As well, it was recalled that the 7MSP decisions concerning the extensions process imply additional costs. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies indicated

that these costs should be shared between States Parties. It was further noted that this may be done so on a voluntary basis through the ISU Trust Fund.

38. 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. At the 25-26 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies, Croatia, the GICHD and Norwegian People's Aid provided experts' views on how this can be done in a manner that is responsible and safe. In addition, in June 2007 the GICHD convened a practitioners' workshop on this matter. 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. The need for standards to ensure the safe and efficient release of suspected mined areas was underlined.

39. The Standing Committee in Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies was again kept apprised of progress and challenges concerning mine risk education (MRE). It was highlighted that 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 highlighted.

40. The importance of including gender considerations in all stages of mine clearance and MRE was further highlighted. Lessons from mine-related activities that are adapted to the different needs and situations of women and men were shared, notably by the UNDP.

41. With respect to mine action technologies, Croatia convened a fourth annual symposium on mechanical demining in April 2007. A number of pertinent conclusions were drawn which may assist relevant States Parties in making the most efficient and effective use of machines in the fulfillment of Article 5 obligations.

Priorities for the period leading to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

42. In recalling that the First Review Conference emphasized that Article 5 implementation will be the most significant challenge to be addressed in the period leading to the Second Review Conference, States Parties should place a priority in the period leading to the next Meeting of the States Parties on the following:

- (i) **States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 which have not yet done so should act in accordance with their Convention obligations and as emphasized by Actions #17 to #22 of the Nairobi Action Plan to identify mined areas under their jurisdiction or control, develop national plans consistent with Convention obligations and achieve progress in implementing such a plan.**

- (ii) **States Parties implementing Article 5 should provide clarity on their status regarding Article 5 implementation.**
- (iii) **States Parties should implement the agreed process concerning requests for extensions to Article 5 deadlines, doing so in a cooperative and practical-minded manner.**
- (iv) **States Parties that need to prepare an extension request should, in accordance with the decisions of the 7MSP, as necessary, seek assistance from the ISU in the preparation of their requests and States Parties in a position to do so should provide additional ear-marked funds to the ISU Trust Fund to cover costs related to supporting the Article 5 extensions process.**
- (v) **States Parties in a position to do so should, in accordance with their Convention obligations and as emphasized Action #23 of the Nairobi Action Plan, provide assistance for mine clearance and mine risk reduction education.**
- (vi) **Noting that approaches to releasing areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines through means other than clearance can speed up implementation of Article 5, States Parties should encourage the development or enhancement of standards for the release of suspected mined areas.**

IV. Assisting the Victims

43. Since the 7MSP, greater emphasis continued to be placed on fulfilling responsibilities to landmine victims by the 24 States Parties that have indicated that they hold ultimate responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors. These States Parties are: **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.** As noted in the **Nairobi Action Plan**, “these States Parties have the greatest responsibility to act, but also the greatest needs and expectations for assistance.”⁶ Since the 7MSP, the efforts of these 24 States Parties, with the support of others, continued to be guided by the clear framework regarding victim assistance in the context of the Convention which was agreed to at the First Review Conference which includes the following core principles:

- (i) that “the call to assist landmine victims should not lead to victim assistance efforts being undertaken in such a manner as to exclude any person injured or disabled in another manner;”
- (ii) that victim assistance “does not require the development of new fields or disciplines but rather calls for ensuring that existing health care and social service

⁶ Part III, paragraph 5 of document APLC/CONF/2004/5 entitled: Ending the Suffering caused by Anti-Personnel Mines: Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009.

systems, rehabilitation programmes and legislative and policy frameworks are adequate to meet the needs of all citizens – including landmine victims;”

- (iii) that “assistance to landmine victims should be viewed as a part of a country’s overall public health and social services systems and human rights frameworks;” and,
- (iv) that “providing adequate assistance to landmine survivors must be seen in a broader context of development and underdevelopment.”⁷

44. Guided by the conclusions drawn at the First Review Conference and Actions #29 to #39 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration provided support and encouragement to the 24 relevant States Parties to set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) objectives and a plan of action to fulfil their victim assistance responsibilities in the period leading up to the Second Review Conference in 2009. Particular effort was made to overcome the fact that as of the end of the 7MSP few of the 24 relevant States Parties had responded with SMART objectives and that some had failed to spell out what is known or not known about the status of victim assistance. In addition, in some instances preparation of victim assistance objectives had not taken broader national plans into consideration, some States Parties lacked the capacity and resources to develop and implement objectives and national plans and in some there was limited collaboration between mine action centres and relevant ministries and other key actors in the disability sector.

45. Since 2005, Co-Chairs have recognized that overcoming these challenges requires intensive work on a national basis in the 24 relevant States Parties. In this regard, with assistance provided by Australia, Austria, Norway and Switzerland, the ISU continued to support national inter-ministerial processes to enable those States Parties with good objectives to develop and implement good plans, to help those with unclear objectives develop more concrete objectives, and to assist those least engaged in developing objectives and plans in 2005 and 2006, to get engaged. The ISU provided or offered some degree of support to each of the 24 relevant States Parties and undertook specialized support visits to Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Sudan, Thailand, and Uganda in 2007. Many relevant States Parties’ inter-ministerial processes involved national victim assistance-focused workshops with such workshops taking place in the following States Parties since the 7MSP: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda.

46. At the April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, 19 of the 24 relevant States Parties provided updates on the application of relevant provisions of the **Nairobi Action Plan**. Through these updates and from information otherwise provided by the States Parties, progress in strengthening objectives and / or developing, revising or implementing plans was reported by Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, El Salvador, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Uganda. In

⁷ Part II, paragraphs 65, 66 and 67 of document APLC/CONF/2004/5 entitled: Review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

addition, relevant ministries are developing and implementing plans of action for the disability sector as a whole in Mozambique.

47. The potential for progress in some States Parties has been hindered by a lack of financial resources. For example, in 2006 Tajikistan reported significant progress in the development of a national plan through a process of consultation and collaboration with relevant ministries and other key actors. However, it has been unable to secure the resources needed to implement key elements of its plan. In this regard, it was recalled that States Parties in a position to do so have an obligation to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of mine victims and have made commitments in this regard in the **Nairobi Action Plan**.

48. Also in the context of Action #29 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, the Sixtieth World Health Assembly in May 2007 urged its Member States, which include all 24 States Parties reporting responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors, “to assess comprehensively the pre-hospital and emergency-care context including, where necessary, identifying unmet needs,” and requested the Director-General of the World Health Organization “to devise standardized tools and techniques for assessing need for prehospital and facility-based capacity in trauma and emergency care” and “to collaborate with Member States, non governmental organizations and other stakeholders in order to help ensure that the necessary capacity is in place effectively to plan, organize, administer, finance and monitor provision of trauma and emergency care.”⁸ Such actions by the World Health Assembly provide valuable guidance to the States Parties to the Convention in the fulfilment of their responsibilities to landmine survivors.

49. The World Health Assembly also took action on a matter that concerns Action #34 of the **Nairobi Action Plan** when in May 2007 it urged its Member States “to develop, implement, consolidate and assess plans to strengthen their health information systems,” and requested the Director-General of the World Health Organization “to increase WHO’s activities in health statistics at the global, regional and country levels and provide harmonized support to Member States to build capacities for development of health information systems and generation, analysis, dissemination and use of data.”⁹

50. On matters that relate to Action #33 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, efforts continued since the 7MSP to strengthen the normative framework that protects and ensures respect for the rights of persons with disabilities including landmine survivors. In particular, on 13 December 2006 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol were adopted. On 30 March 2007 the CRPD was opened for signature. Fourteen of the 24 States Parties reporting responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors have signed the CRPD as have 87 other States Parties to the Convention. Seven States have ratified the CPRD, including Croatia, which is one of the 24 States Parties reporting responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors. At the 24 / 27 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, it was highlighted that the CRPD has the potential to promote a more systematic and sustainable approach to victim assistance in the context of the Convention by bringing *victim assistance* into the broader context of policy and planning for persons with disabilities more generally.

⁸ Health systems: emergency-care systems. Sixtieth World Health Assembly, Agenda Item 12.14 (WHA 60.22).

⁹ Strengthening of health information systems. Sixtieth World Health Assembly, Agenda Item 12.15 (WHA 60.27).

51. Pursuant to Action #37 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, Australia supported the ICBL through its member organization, Standing Tall Australia, in monitoring progress in the achievement of victim assistance goals through the report **Landmine Victim Assistance in 2006: Overview of the Situation in 24 States Parties** – the third such annual report. In addition, the ICBL released its **10 Guiding Principles for Victim Assistance** to provide a framework for all concerned actors to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate victim assistance activities.

52. In keeping with Action #38 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, at least 11 landmine survivors participated in the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees, including one who was a member of the delegation of a State Party.

53. In keeping with Action #39 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, at least 17 States Parties included relevant health, rehabilitation, social services or disability professionals in their delegations to the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees. In order to make the best possible use of the time dedicated by such experts in the work of the Convention, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration organized an ambitious parallel programme during the 23-27 April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees. This programme increased the knowledge of the expert participants on victim assistance in the context of the Convention, emphasized the place of victim assistance in the broader contexts of disability, health care, social services, and development, reaffirmed the importance of key principles adopted by the States Parties in 2004, and reaffirmed key challenges. In addition, in response to the request of the victim assistance experts participating in the programme, the ISU began to significantly enhance the quantity of victim assistance resources available in the Convention's Documentation Centre.

Priorities for the period leading to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

54. Despite advances since the 7MSP, States Parties should continue to deepen their understanding of principles accepted and commitments made through the Convention and at the First Review Conference and the work undertaken since by the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, in particular by placing a priority in the period leading to the next Meeting of the States Parties on the following:

- (i) **As 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, relevant States Parties that have not yet done so should 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.**
- (ii) **In fulfilling their responsibilities to landmine survivors, relevant States Parties and those assisting them should apply the understandings adopted at the First Review Conference, particularly by understanding victim assistance in the broader contexts of development and seeing its place as a part of**

existing State responsibilities in the areas of health care, social services, rehabilitation and human rights frameworks.

- (iii) In fulfilling their responsibilities to landmine survivors, relevant States Parties and those assisting them should recall the need to reinforce existing State structures and that the role of mine action centres should largely relate to data collection and dissemination and advocacy.¹⁰**
- (iv) States Parties should strengthen the involvement in the work of the Convention by health care, rehabilitation and disability rights experts and do more to ensure that landmine survivors are effectively involved in national planning and contribute to deliberations that affect them.**
- (v) In fulfilling their responsibilities to landmine survivors, States Parties should be guided by the principles of non-discrimination, inclusion, equality of opportunity, and accessibility, and should ensure all efforts consider the age and gender of the victims, the development of national and local capacities, the delivery and accessibility of a comprehensive range of services, and the involvement of all concerned actors and stakeholders.**

V. Other Matters Essential for Achieving the Convention's Aims

A. Cooperation and assistance

55. Norway continued to coordinate the work of the Resource Mobilisation Contact Group, placing an emphasis since the 7MSP on information sources available to enable States Parties to make efficient and effective use of mine action resources. At the 8MSP, Norway reported that the Contact Group would be renamed the Resource Utilisation Contact Group to better reflect the focus of the Contact Group's activities.

56. At the 7MSP, the establishment of the Linking Mine Action and Development (LMAD) Contact Group, coordinated by Canada, was noted with the Contact Group's immediate aim being to develop practical guidelines and tools to facilitate integration of mine action and development in complementing existing dedicated mechanisms. It was also noted that Canada, the United Kingdom, the GICHD and the UNDP were promoting the link between mine action and development in the programme of work of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with the aim of enhancing policy and practical guidelines for DAC members on the inclusion of mine action in security and development policies.

57. Since the 7MSP, the GICHD established the LMAD Practitioners Network involving over 100 practitioners with extensive knowledge of linking mine action with development at the community, sectoral, national, and international levels. LMAD practitioners' workshops were held in Geneva in April 2007, Cambodia in June 2007, and Yemen in November 2007, with the aim of sharing experiences, lessons and good practices. Based on these workshops, guidelines

¹⁰ See for instance "The scope of mine action centres and organizations in victim assistance". United Nations Mine Action Service, 2003.

are being drafted for national authorities, donors, mine action officials and practitioners, NGOs and UN agencies on how to more effectively link mine action with development. Guidelines aimed specifically at donor agencies will feed into the OECD DAC's guidelines on integrating armed violence into development programming.

58. While the First Review Conference had highlighted the importance of mainstreaming support to mine action through broader programmes, various Standing Committees raised potential concerns about how mainstreaming can put at risk accessibility to and the allocation of mine action funding. It was noted that donors concerned should be clear in communicating procedural changes which could affect funding levels and that donors should maintain a central focal point for assistance requests.

59. As noted, pursuant to the right of each State Party, as contained in Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Convention, "to seek and receive assistance, where feasible, from other States Parties to the extent possible," a large number of States Parties indicated a need for external resources in order to fulfill Convention obligations. In some instances it was noted that the failure to obtain external resources may affect the timely implementation of Article 5 of the Convention.

60. A variety of means through which States Parties may provide and obtain assistance, including relatively new means, were highlighted, particularly by the UN system. In addition to funds obtained through the UN Trust Fund for Mine Action and the Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, the UN reported that it had accessed funds through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (including more than US\$ 1.7 million to assist **Sudan** in the development and implementation of a strategic action plan on victim assistance and for MRE activities) and the UN Central Emergency Revolving Fund (from which funds were obtained to assist **Guinea Bissau** in mine clearance). As well, the UNDP reported that it had refocused its *Completion Initiative* on accelerating assistance to States Parties with relatively modest Article 5 challenges to develop strategies which could be implemented in accordance with Convention deadlines. To date through this programme, **Albania** has developed a plan of action for completion of its obligations by its deadline and the UNDP has begun providing support to **Malawi**, **Mauritania** and **Zambia**. In addition, as referred to elsewhere in this progress report, the EU is in the process of agreeing to a Joint Action to support the Convention. This will involve up to 25 technical assistance visits to States Parties with a view to providing advice for the full implementation of the Convention.

61. The importance of a two-track approach to cooperation on victim assistance was again noted. Such an approach involves assistance provided by or through specialized organizations in which assistance specifically targets landmines 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. As in past years, while some States Parties provided information on efforts regarding the former, very little information was provided regarding efforts that will ultimately benefit landmine survivors through integrated development cooperation.

62. It was again noted that stockpile destruction is a cost efficient and effective way of ensuring that no more mines are placed in the ground and that even with an ever-decreasing number of mines remaining in stocks there exists a risk until such time as all stocks are

destroyed. In this context and as it relates to Action #13 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, States Parties in a position to do so were again encouraged to promptly assist other States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs concerning the fulfilment of Article 4 obligations. Two States Parties provided an updated on their assistance activities in this area during the April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction. In addition, the EU was again commended for its critical support for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

63. Also with respect to cooperation and assistance as it concerns stockpile destruction, as previously noted, the importance of Article 6, paragraph 8, which states “each State Party giving and receiving assistance under the provisions of this Article shall cooperate with a view to ensuring the full and prompt implementation of agreed assistance programs,” was recalled.

Priorities for the period leading to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

64. In recalling their obligations and the commitments they made in the **Nairobi Action Plan** to cooperate with and assist each other, States Parties should place a priority in the period leading to the next Meeting of the States Parties on the following:

- (i) **Given the large number of States Parties which continue to indicate a need for external resources in order to fulfill Convention obligations, States Parties in a position to do so should continue to act upon their obligations under Article 6 of the Convention.**
- (ii) **In accordance with Action #45 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, States Parties should ensure that when mine action is integrated as appropriate into development budgets, the changes are geared towards enhancing the sustainability of such assistance and done in a way that ensures that the implementation of the Convention remains a high priority.**
- (iii) **States Parties requiring assistance should include mine action in their relevant plans and programmes, such as their development plans and programmes, as indicated in Action #40 of the *Nairobi Action Plan* in order to benefit from mainstreamed international assistance.**
- (iv) **States Parties should continue to support efforts to establish and promote guidelines on how to more effectively link mine action with development.**

B. Transparency and the exchange of information

65. At the close of the 7MSP, initial transparency reports had been submitted as required by Article 7, paragraph 1 by all States Parties except Bhutan, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guyana, and Sao Tome and Principe. Since that time, **Bhutan** and **Guyana** submitted initial reports. In addition since the 7MSP, the initial reporting deadlines for **Brunei Darussalam**, the **Cook Islands**, **Haiti**, **Montenegro** and **Ukraine** have occurred with each of these States Parties except **Haiti** having submitted its initial report. Hence, there are six States

Parties – **Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Haiti, and Sao Tome and Principe** – which have not yet complied with their obligations under Article 7, paragraph 1.¹¹

66. In terms of compliance with Article 7 paragraph 2, at the close of the 7MSP, 42 States Parties had not provided an updated transparency report covering calendar year 2005 as required. In addition, at the close of the 7MSP, the overall reporting rate in 2006 stood at 66 percent. In 2007, the following 57 States Parties had not provided an updated transparency report covering calendar year 2006 as required: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Iceland, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia¹², Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uruguay and Vanuatu. As of 22 November 2007 the overall reporting rate in 2007 stood at 59 per cent.

67. The 7MSP re-emphasized that States Parties should continue to comply or improve their compliance with Article 7 reporting obligations, especially those States Parties that are destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines, clearing mined areas, retaining anti-personnel mines for reasons permitted under Article 3 and / or taking measures in accordance with Article 9. As of 22 November 2007:

- (i) Of the 12 States Parties, which as of the close of the 7MSP, still had to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4, each provided transparency information covering the previous calendar year on this matter as required in 2007 with the exception of the following: **Burundi and Ethiopia**.
- (ii) Of the 45 States which, as of the close of the 7MSP, still had to clear mined areas in accordance with Article 5, each provided transparency information covering the previous calendar year on this matter as required in 2007 with the exception of the following: **Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, and Uganda**.
- (iii) Of the 77 States which, as of the close of the 7MSP, had reported that they had retained anti-personnel mines for reasons permitted under Article 3, each provided transparency information covering the previous calendar year on this matter as required in 2007 with the exception of the following: **Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, El Salvador, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Togo, Uganda, and Uruguay**. One State Party: the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** stated that a

¹¹ Indonesia is required to submit an initial transparency report as soon as practicable and, in any event, not later than 27 January 2008; Iraq not later than 30 July 2008; Kuwait not later than 29 June 2008; and, Palau not later than 28 October 2008.

¹² While Serbia did not submit a transparency report in 2007, Serbia's previous report covered a period up until 1 December 2006.

decision concerning anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3 is pending.¹³ Two States Parties, **Moldova** and **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** reported that in 2006 they destroyed all their anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3. In addition since the 7MSP, two States Parties – **Brunei Darussalam** and **Guyana** – reported for the first time that they have not retained mines for purposes permitted under Article 3. An update on the numbers of anti-personnel mines retained and transferred for permitted reasons is contained in Appendix VI.

- (iv) Of the 74 States Parties which, as of the close of the 7MSP, had not reported in the context of Article 9, either that they had adopted legislation or that they considered their existing laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention, each provided transparency information covering the previous calendar year on this matter as required in 2007 with the exception of the following: **Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).**

68. At the 6MSP, the States Parties amended the transparency reporting format to provide, in Form D, the opportunity to volunteer information in addition to what is minimally required on anti-personnel mines retained for reasons permitted under Article 3 pursuant to Action #54 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**. In 2007, 12 States Parties used the amended reporting format to provide such information. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation invited States Parties to volunteer relevant information on anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3 and to make use of the 23-27 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee. Nine States Parties took advantage of this opportunity and provided updated information in this forum. An overview of information volunteered is contained in Appendix VI.

69. States Parties may share information beyond what is minimally required through the Article 7 reporting format's Form J. Since the 7MSP, the following 37 States Parties have made use of Form J as a voluntary means of reporting: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Mauritania, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, Yemen and Zambia. Of these, the following 21 States Parties used Form J to report on assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims: Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Japan, Mauritania, Mozambique, New Zealand, Peru, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Turkey, Yemen and Zambia.

¹³ Two additional States Parties – **Botswana** and **Burundi** – which did not submit transparency reports in 2007 previously had indicated that a decision concerning anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3 is pending.

70. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention provided an opportunity on 27 April 2007, pursuant to Action #55 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, to exchange of views and share experiences on the practical implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, including Articles 1, 2 and 3. One State Party spoke on Articles 1, 2 and / or 3. Three States Parties shared views on other aspects of implementation.

71. Since the 7MSP, two States not parties, Poland and Mongolia provided voluntary transparency reports sharing information on all pertinent matters mentioned in Article 7.

72. Consistent with Action #58 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, some States Parties and regional or other organizations arranged voluntarily regional and thematic conferences and workshops to advance implementation of the Convention or otherwise worked to disseminate information on the Convention. Many of these activities have been referred to elsewhere in this progress report. Other efforts included bilateral meetings in New York held by the 7MSP President with States Parties not represented in Geneva to promote, in particular, fulfilment of transparency reporting obligations. This work resulted in at least one State Party submitting its initial Article 7 report. In addition, the ICBL convened workshops in Senegal, Yemen, Tajikistan and Colombia and the UN in collaboration with the ISU organized a workshop on the obligations of the Convention for national mine action directors and UN advisors.

73. Several States Parties took the initiative to organize events to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption and signing of the Convention:

- (i) On 12 February 2007 in Vienna, Austria held a symposium marking the 10th anniversary of the Vienna Meeting on the Convention for the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines that took place exactly ten years before in February 1997. The symposium, **Assisting Landmine Survivors – A Decade of Efforts**, concentrated on progress achieved over the past ten years and challenges that still remain in fully implementing the Convention in relation to mine victim assistance.
- (ii) On 9 May 2007 in Brussels, Belgium convened the special event, **New Perspectives for a World Without Mines**, which marked the 10th anniversary of the June 1997 Brussels International Conference for a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines.
- (iii) On 18 September 2007 in Oslo, Norway organized **Clearing the Path for a Better Future**, an event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Oslo Diplomatic Conference on an International Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention.
- (iv) Canada announced that it will organize events in Ottawa in December 2007 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Convention's signing ceremony.

- (v) In addition, in November 2007 France organized events commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Convention and Peru indicated that it would do the same in December 2007.

74. The informal Article 7 Contact Group, coordinated by Belgium, continued to work to raise awareness on transparency reporting obligations and played an important role in serving as a point of contact for requests for assistance. On 1 March 2007 – the eighth anniversary of the Convention’s entry into force – the Coordinator of the Contact Group wrote to all States Parties to remind them of their obligations, particularly the 30 April deadline by which updated information covering the last calendar year should be submitted. In addition, the Contact Group met to discuss strategies and exchange of information on a regular basis and re-emphasized the importance of quality reporting. The UN also helped States Parties complying with their Article 7 reporting obligations by facilitating access to Article 7 reporting formats on its website and with in-country support provided by UN technical advisors. A new database containing Article 7 reports submitted since 2005 was also created by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Priorities for the period leading to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

75. Further to the recognition made by the States Parties that transparency and the effective exchange of information will be crucial to fulfilling their obligations during the period 2005-2009, States Parties should place a priority in the period leading to the next Meeting of the States Parties on the following:

- (i) **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.**
- (ii) **States Parties should consider making use of the variety of informal information mechanisms and forums which exist to provide information on matters not specifically required but which may assist in the implementation process and in resource mobilisation.**

C. Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance

76. Since the 7MSP, two additional States Parties Brunei Darussalam and Cook Islands reported that they were in the process of adopting legislation to implement the Convention. There are now 51 States Parties that have reported that they have adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations. An additional 27 reported that they consider existing laws to be sufficient. Seventy-five 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. An overview of implementation of Article 9 is contained in Appendix VII.

77. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention invited States Parties to volunteer information at the 27 April 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee on their progress in adopting legislative, administrative and other measures

in accordance with Article 9 and if relevant, to make their priorities for assistance known. Seven States Parties took advantage of this opportunity and provided updated information in this forum.

78. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention highlighted that while almost 80 States Parties have reported on “legal” measures taken in accordance with Article 9, very few have reported on “administrative and other measures.” The Co-Chairs encouraged updates on administrative and other measures taken at the April meeting of the Standing Committee. One State Party, Argentina, provided updates on such measures that it had taken.

79. Since the 7MSP, the States Parties remained committed to work together to facilitate compliance under the Convention. In addition, since the 7MSP, no State Party submitted a request for clarification to a Meeting of the States Parties in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 2, nor has any proposed that a Special Meeting of the States Parties be convened in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 5. As well, the UNODA continued fulfilling the UN Secretary General’s responsibility to prepare and update a list of names, nationalities and other relevant data of qualified experts designated for fact finding missions authorized in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 8. Since the 7MSP, 19 States Parties – Austria, Bolivia, Croatia, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Jordan, Luxembourg, Moldova, Nicaragua, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Yemen – provided new or updated information for the list of experts. In addition, the UNODA established an internet-based database of qualified experts in order to enhance the States Parties’ access to relevant information.

80. Since the 7MSP, concern was expressed about a UN Monitoring Group’s report on Somalia referring to the alleged transfer of landmines into Somalia by three States Parties to the Convention and by one State not party. The President of the 7MSP wrote to the Chair of the Monitoring Group to seek further information, particularly as some of the terminology in the report was unclear as to which types of mines were allegedly transferred. The President did not receive a response. It was noted that the States Parties concerned rejected claims made in the report.

Priorities for the period leading to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

81. In recalling that the commitment made in the Nairobi Action Plan to continue to be guided by the knowledge that individually and collectively they are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Convention, States Parties should place a priority in the period leading to the next Meeting of the States Parties on the following:

- (i) **Given that approximately 50 per cent of the States Parties have not yet reported having implemented Article 9, State Parties should place a renewed emphasis on the obligation to take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party by the Convention.**

- (ii) **The President will continue to follow up to seek clarity with respect to reports, such as those of UN Monitoring Groups, which allege violations of the Convention.**

D. Implementation Support

82. The Coordinating Committee met six times to prepare for and assess the outcome of the Intersessional Work Programme and to coordinate the work of the Standing Committees with the work of the Meeting of the States Parties since the 7MSP. The Coordinating Committee continued to operate in an open and transparent manner with summary reports of meetings made available to all interested parties on the Convention's web site.¹⁴

83. With respect to the Intersessional Work Programme, at the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees there were over 500 registered delegates representing 100 States Parties, 21 States not parties and numerous international and non-governmental organizations. These meetings featured discussions on the implementation of key provisions of the Convention and on assuring that cooperation and assistance would continue to function well. The meetings were again supported by GICHD. Interpretation services were provided through voluntary contributions by the European Commission and Canada.

84. In 2007, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the GICHD continued to assist States Parties to implement the Convention's obligations and objectives. The ISU supported the President, the President-Designate, the Co-Chairs, the Contact Group Coordinators, the Sponsorship Programme donors group and individual States Parties with initiatives to pursue the aims of the **Nairobi Action Plan**. In addition, through the provision of professional advice, support and information services, the ISU assisted individual States Parties in addressing various implementation challenges.

85. The continuing operations of ISU were assured by voluntary contributions by the following States Parties since the 7MSP: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Norway, Senegal, Spain and Turkey. In 2007, ISU continued to provide victim assistance *process support* to the inter-ministerial coordination efforts of States Parties that have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of mine victims through project funding provided by Australia, Austria, Norway and Switzerland.

86. The ISU obtained additional staff resources to support individual States Parties in the preparation of requests for extensions on the implementation of Article 5. In addition, pursuant to the decision of the 7MSP "to encourage all States Parties in a position to do so to provide additional earmarked funds to the ISU Trust Fund to cover costs related to support the Article 5 extensions process," the 2007 ISU budget provided a means for such earmarking. The following States Parties provided earmarked funding: Australia, the Czech Republic and Lithuania.

¹⁴ www.apminebanconvention.org.

87. The UNODA and Jordan, with the assistance of ISU, made arrangements for the 8MSP. The States Parties continued to use Contact Groups on universalization, Article 7 reporting, resource mobilization and linking mine action and development.
88. The Sponsorship Programme continued to ensure participation in the Convention's meetings by States Parties normally not able to be represented at these meetings by relevant experts or officials. In advance of the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees, the programme's Donors' Group invited 39 States Parties to request sponsorship for up to 62 delegates to provide updates on Convention implementation. Thirty-two States Parties accepted this offer with 48 representatives of States Parties sponsored to attend the April meetings. The programme's Donors' Group invited 45 States Parties to request sponsorship for up to 69 delegates to attend the 8MSP. 35 States Parties accepted this offer with 54 representatives of States Parties sponsored to attend the 8MSP.
89. Sponsorship of States Parties' delegates was again instrumental in the application of Action #39 of the **Nairobi Action Plan**, to include health and social service professionals in deliberations. Sixteen relevant States Parties accepted the Donors' Group offer of support at the April 2007 meetings. And 14 relevant States Parties took advantage of the Donors' Group offer of support for participation by such a professional in the 8MSP
90. The Sponsorship Programme also contributed to the aims of universalization, with the Donors' Group having offered sponsorship to eight States not parties for the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees and seven States not parties for the 8MSP. Four States not parties accepted this offer in April 2007, with most providing an update on their views on the Convention at the 23 April meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention. Four States not parties accepted this offer for the 8MSP.
91. The continuing operations of the Sponsorship Programme were assured in 2007 by contributions to the Sponsorship Programme from the following States Parties since the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the European Commission, Italy and Spain.

Appendix I**States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention**

State	Date of Formal Acceptance	Date of Entry-into-force
Afghanistan	11 September 2002	1 March 2003
Albania	29 February 2000	1 August 2000
Algeria	9 October 2001	1 April 2002
Andorra	29 June 1998	1 March 1999
Angola	5 July 2002	1 January 2003
Antigua and Barbuda	3 May 1999	1 November 1999
Argentina	14 September 1999	1 March 2000
Australia	14 January 1999	1 July 1999
Austria	29 June 1998	1 March 1999
Bahamas	31 July 1998	1 March 1999
Bangladesh	6 September 2000	1 March 2001
Barbados	26 January 1999	1 July 1999
Belarus	3 September 2003	1 March 2004
Belgium	4 September 1998	1 March 1999
Belize	23 April 1998	1 March 1999
Benin	25 September 1998	1 March 1999
Bhutan	18 August 2005	1 February 2006
Bolivia	9 June 1998	1 March 1999
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8 September 1998	1 March 1999
Botswana	1 March 2000	1 September 2000
Brazil	30 April 1999	1 October 1999
Brunei Darussalam	24 April 2006	1 October 2006
Bulgaria	4 September 1998	1 March 1999
Burkina Faso	16 September 1998	1 March 1999
Burundi	22 October 2003	1 April 2004
Cambodia	28 July 1999	1 January 2000
Cameroon	19 September 2002	1 March 2003
Canada	3 December 1997	1 March 1999
Cape Verde	14 May 2001	1 November 2001
Central African Republic	8 November 2002	1 May 2003
Chad	6 May 1999	1 November 1999
Chile	10 September 2001	1 March 2002
Colombia	6 September 2000	1 March 2001
Comoros	19 September 2002	1 March 2003
Congo	4 May 2001	1 November 2001
Cook Islands	15 March 2006	1 September 2006
Costa Rica	17 March 1999	1 September 1999
Côte d'Ivoire	30 June 2000	1 December 2000
Croatia	20 May 1998	1 March 1999

State	Date of Formal Acceptance	Date of Entry-into-force
Cyprus	17 January 2003	1 July 2003
Czech Republic	26 October 1999	1 April 2000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2 May 2002	1 November 2002
Denmark	8 June 1998	1 March 1999
Djibouti	18 May 1998	1 March 1999
Dominica	26 March 1999	1 September 1999
Dominican Republic	30 June 2000	1 December 2000
Ecuador	29 April 1999	1 October 1999
El Salvador	27 January 1999	1 July 1999
Equatorial Guinea	16 September 1998	1 March 1999
Eritrea	27 August 2001	1 February 2002
Estonia	12 May 2004	1 November 2004
Ethiopia	17 December 2004	1 June 2005
Fiji	10 June 1998	1 March 1999
France	23 July 1998	1 March 1999
Gabon	8 September 2000	1 March 2001
Gambia	23 September 2002	1 March 2003
Germany	23 July 1998	1 March 1999
Ghana	30 June 2000	1 December 2000
Greece	25 September 2003	1 March 2004
Grenada	19 August 1998	1 March 1999
Guatemala	26 March 1999	1 September 1999
Guinea	8 October 1998	1 April 1999
Guinea-Bissau	22 May 2001	1 November 2001
Guyana	5 August 2003	1 February 2004
Haiti	15 February 2006	1 August 2006
Holy See	17 February 1998	1 March 1999
Honduras	24 September 1998	1 March 1999
Hungary	6 April 1998	1 March 1999
Iceland	5 May 1999	1 November 1999
Indonesia	16 February 2007	1 August 2007
Iraq	15 August 2007	1 February 2008
Ireland	3 December 1997	1 March 1999
Italy	23 April 1999	1 October 1999
Jamaica	17 July 1998	1 March 1999
Japan	30 September 1998	1 March 1999
Jordan	13 November 1998	1 May 1999
Kenya	23 January 2001	1 July 2001
Kiribati	7 September 2000	1 March 2001
Kuwait	30 July 2007	1 January 2008
Latvia	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Lesotho	2 December 1998	1 June 1999
Liberia	23 December 1999	1 June 2000

State	Date of Formal Acceptance	Date of Entry-into-force
Liechtenstein	5 October 1999	1 April 2000
Lithuania	12 May 2003	1 November 2003
Luxembourg	14 June 1999	1 December 1999
Madagascar	16 September 1999	1 March 2000
Malawi	13 August 1998	1 March 1999
Malaysia	22 April 1999	1 October 1999
Maldives	7 September 2000	1 March 2001
Mali	2 June 1998	1 March 1999
Malta	7 May 2001	1 November 2001
Mauritania	21 July 2000	1 January 2001
Mauritius	3 December 1997	1 March 1999
Mexico	9 June 1998	1 March 1999
Moldova	8 September 2000	1 March 2001
Monaco	17 November 1998	1 May 1999
Montenegro	23 October 2006	1 April 2007
Mozambique	25 August 1998	1 March 1999
Namibia	21 September 1998	1 March 1999
Nauru	7 August 2000	1 February 2001
Netherlands	12 April 1999	1 October 1999
New Zealand	27 January 1999	1 July 1999
Nicaragua	30 November 1998	1 May 1999
Niger	23 March 1999	1 September 1999
Nigeria	27 September 2001	1 March 2002
Niue	15 April 1998	1 March 1999
Norway	9 July 1998	1 March 1999
Palau	18 November 2007	1 May 2008
Panama	7 October 1998	1 April 1999
Papua New Guinea	28 June 2004	1 December 2004
Paraguay	13 November 1998	1 May 1999
Peru	17 June 1998	1 March 1999
Philippines	15 February 2000	1 August 2000
Portugal	19 February 1999	1 August 1999
Qatar	13 October 1998	1 April 1999
Romania	30 November 2000	1 May 2001
Rwanda	8 June 2000	1 December 2000
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2 December 1998	1 June 1999
Saint Lucia	13 April 1999	1 October 1999
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1 August 2001	1 February 2002
Samoa	23 July 1998	1 March 1999
San Marino	18 March 1998	1 March 1999
Sao Tome and Principe	31 March 2003	1 September 2003
Senegal	24 September 1998	1 March 1999
Serbia	18 September 2003	1 March 2004

State	Date of Formal Acceptance	Date of Entry-into-force
Seychelles	2 June 2000	1 December 2000
Sierra Leone	25 April 2001	1 October 2001
Slovakia	25 February 1999	1 August 1999
Slovenia	27 October 1998	1 April 1999
Solomon Islands	26 January 1999	1 July 1999
South Africa	26 June 1998	1 March 1999
Spain	19 January 1999	1 July 1999
Sudan	13 October 2003	1 April 2004
Suriname	23 May 2002	1 November 2002
Swaziland	22 December 1998	1 June 1999
Sweden	30 November 1998	1 May 1999
Switzerland	24 March 1998	1 March 1999
Tajikistan	12 October 1999	1 April 2000
Thailand	27 November 1998	1 May 1999
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	9 September 1998	1 March 1999
Timor-Leste	7 May 2003	1 November 2003
Togo	9 March 2000	1 September 2000
Trinidad and Tobago	27 April 1998	1 March 1999
Tunisia	9 July 1999	1 January 2000
Turkey	25 September 2003	1 March 2004
Turkmenistan	19 January 1998	1 March 1999
Uganda	25 February 1999	1 August 1999
Ukraine	27 December 2005	1 June 2006
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	31 July 1998	1 March 1999
United Republic of Tanzania	13 November 2000	1 May 2001
Uruguay	7 June 2001	1 December 2001
Vanuatu	16 September 2005	1 March 2006
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	14 April 1999	1 October 1999
Yemen	1 September 1998	1 March 1999
Zambia	23 February 2001	1 August 2001
Zimbabwe	18 June 1998	1 March 1999

Appendix IV

**States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 and which have a deadline in 2009:
Status with respect to the submission of extension requests**

<p>States Parties with deadlines for the fulfilment of obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention which have 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:</p>	<p>States Parties with deadlines for the fulfilment of obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention which have not yet indicated whether 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:</p>	<p>States Parties with deadlines for the fulfilment of obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention which have indicated that they will destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under their jurisdiction or control no later than 10 years after entry into force of the Convention for each State Party, subject to certain conditions being met:</p>	<p>States Parties with deadlines for the fulfilment of obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention which have indicated that they will destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under their jurisdiction or control no later than 10 years after entry into force of the Convention for each State Party:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bosnia and Herzegovina ▪ Chad ▪ Croatia ▪ Ecuador ▪ Mozambique ▪ Peru ▪ Senegal ▪ Thailand ▪ Yemen ▪ Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) ▪ Zimbabwe ▪ Nicaragua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Denmark ▪ Malawi ▪ Níger ▪ United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jordan ▪ Uganda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ France



<p>These States Parties will need to have their requests considered at the Ninth Meeting of</p>	<p>Should these States Parties indicate that they will submit a request for an</p>	<p>Should these States Parties indicate that they will submit a request for an</p>	<p>In accordance with the decisions of the 7MSP, these States Parties, when they</p>
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<p>the States Parties (9MSP) at the end of 2008.</p> <p>In accordance with the decisions of the 7MSP, these States Parties are encouraged to submit their requests for fewer than nine months before the 9MSP (i.e., approximately March 2008).</p>	<p>extension, they will need to have their requests considered at the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) at the end of 2008.</p> <p>In accordance with the decisions of the 7MSP, these States Parties are encouraged to submit their requests for fewer than nine months before the 9MSP (i.e., approximately March 2008).</p>	<p>extension, they will need to have their requests considered at the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) at the end of 2008.</p> <p>In accordance with the decisions of the 7MSP, these States Parties are encouraged to submit their requests for fewer than nine months before the 9MSP (i.e., approximately March 2008).</p>	<p>have completed implementation of Article 5, paragraph 1, may wish to use the model declaration as a voluntary means to report completion of Article 5 obligations.</p>
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Appendix VI

Anti-personnel mines reported retained or transferred by the States Parties for reasons permitted under Article 3, and, a summary of additional information provided by these States Parties

Table 1. Anti-personnel mines reported retained in accordance with Article 3¹

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
Afghanistan	1,887	2,692	
Algeria	15,030	15,030	
Angola	1,460	2,512	
Argentina	1,596	1,471	<p>Argentina indicated that in 2006 the navy destroyed 111 mines (104 SB-33 and 7 FMK-1) during training activities conducted by the Company of Amphibious Engineers on destruction techniques. The army retains mines to develop an unmanned vehicle for the detection and handling of mines and explosives. Development of this vehicle started on 1 March 2004 and is half complete. The vehicle is currently at the stage of assembling. During 2006 no mines were destroyed for this project.</p> <p>Mines are also retained by the Institute of Scientific and Technical Research of the Armed Forces to test charges for the destruction of UXO/mines. In 2006, 14 mines were destroyed in the testing grounds.</p>
Australia	7,266	7133	Australia reported that stock levels will be regularly reviewed and assessed, that only a realistic training quantity is held, and that stocks in excess of this figure will be destroyed on an ongoing basis. In addition, Australia stated that training is conducted by the School of Military Engineers.
Bangladesh	14,999	12,500	
Belarus	6,030	6,030	

¹ This table contains only those States Parties which have not, in 2007 or previously, reported in accordance with Article 7 zero (0) as the number of anti-personnel mines retained in accordance with Article 3.

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
Belgium	3,820	3,569	Belgium reported that in 2006, 251 mines were used during different sessions of courses organised by the Belgian Armed Forces with the aim of educating and training EOD specialists and deminers with live ammunition and training militaries in mine risk education.
Benin	30	16	
Bhutan		4,491	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17,471	1,708	<p>In 2006, joint EUFOR and Bosnia and Herzegovina Armed Forces inspection teams discovered 15,269 stockpiled MRU mines on several Armed Forces storages in Republika Srpska. The MRUD mines are directional fragmentation mines made in the former Yugoslavia and are designed to be used with an electrical initiation system. For this reason, such types of mines are not considered as a “mine” as defined under the terms of the Convention.</p> <p>However, since they are not adapted to ensure command detonation only, MRUD mines can be technically considered as having the potential to be used as antipersonnel mines. For this reason, the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina made the decision to destroy the majority of them. The decision was that: 14,071 MRUD mines will be destroyed, 150 will be retained for training and education purposes by the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 396 will be transferred to EUFOR for their training purposes, 20 will be donated to the Ministry of Defence of Germany and 2 MRUD mines, which are incomplete, will be destroyed immediately.</p> <p>After the decision was made, all 14,701 pieces were transported to a workshop in Doboj, by mid-April 2007, approximately 5,000 MRUD mines had been destroyed and it is expected that the remaining 9,701 mines will be destroyed by mid-May 2007. The whole process of destruction has been controlled by representatives of the UNDP, NATO and the OSCE.</p>
Botswana ²			

² In its report submitted in 2001, Botswana indicated that a “small quantity” of mines would be retained. No updated information has since been provided.

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
Brazil	15,038	13,550	Brazil reported that all mines retained for training shall be destroyed in training activities. The retention of these mines will allow the Brazilian Armed Forces to participate adequately in international demining activities.
Bulgaria	3,676	3,670	
Burundi ³			
Cameroon ⁴			

³ In its report submitted in 2006, Burundi indicated that the decision concerning mines retained is pending.

⁴ In its report submitted in 2005, Cameroon reported the same 3,154 mines under Article 4 and Article 3.

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
Canada	1,992	1,963	<p>Canada reported that it retains live anti-personnel mines to study the effect of blast on equipment, to train soldiers on procedures to defuse live anti-personnel mines and to demonstrate the effect of landmines. For example, live mines help determine whether suits, boots and shields will adequately protect personnel who clear mines. The live mines are used by the Defence department's research establishment located at Suffield, Alberta and by various military training establishments across Canada. The Department of National Defence represents the only source of anti-personnel mines which can be used by Canadian industry to test equipment.</p> <p>A variety of anti-personnel mines are necessary for training soldiers in mine detection and clearance. Counter-mine procedures and equipment developed by Canada's research establishment must also be tested on different types of mines member of the Canadian Forces or other organisations might encounter during demining operations. The Department of National Defence retains a maximum of 2,000. Canada will continue to conduct trials, testing and evaluation as new technologies are developed. There will be a continuing requirement for provision of real mine targets and simulated minefields for research and development of detection technologies.</p> <p>In 2006, 22 anti-personnel mines were transferred from Afghanistan to train Canadian soldiers with anti-personnel mines they are currently facing in Afghanistan and 51 anti-personnel mines were destroyed for research and development and training purposes.</p>
Cape Verde ⁵			

⁵ Cape Verde has not yet submitted a transparency report in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
Chile	4,574	4,484	<p>Chile reported that its retained anti-personnel mines were under the control of the army and the navy. In 2006, 39 mines were destroyed in anti-personnel mines detection, disposal, and destruction training courses organized for deminers at the School of Military Engineers of the Army. 1,357 mines were destroyed in anti-personnel mines detection, disposal, and destruction training courses organized for the Army's Demining Training Unit in Regions I, II and XII. 15 mines were destroyed to prepare the Partida de Operaciones de Minas Terrestres (Chilean Navy's demining unit) in humanitarian demining.</p> <p>Chile plans to use another 300 mines in 2007 in the course of its training activities. These activities include courses in detection, disposal, and destruction of anti-personnel mines for the Azapa, Atacama and Punta Arenas Engineering Battalions and the Navy demining units and regular courses for Engineer Officers and Sub-Officers at the School of Military Engineers.</p>
Colombia	886	586	
Congo	372	372	
Croatia	6,236	6,179	<p>Croatia informed the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention that in 2006, 57 anti-personnel mines were used for testing of demining machines, which left the total number of mines in stock for training purposes at 6,179 pieces. The main purpose for which retained mines were used up to date is testing demining machines Božena 5 and Mini "MINE-WOLF" and RM-KA 02. Only after comprehensive testing the machines would receive appropriate certification which would enable them to operate in Croatia and beyond. On the basis of current estimates regarding requirements for testing of demining machines, Croatia believes that 175 anti-personnel mines will be needed in 2007.</p> <p>In 2003, CROMAC established the Centre for Testing, Development and Training (CTDT), whose prime task is to conduct testing on demining machines, mine detection dogs and metal detectors, as well as research and development of other demining techniques and technologies. CTDT is the only organisation in the Republic of Croatia authorised to use live anti-personnel mines in controlled areas and under the supervision of highly qualified personnel. In 2004, for that purpose, CTDT established a test site "Cerovec" near the city of Karlovac.</p>

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
Cyprus	1,000	1,000	
Czech Republic	4,829	4,699	130 anti-personnel mines were disposed of in 2006. The Czech Republic reported that there is no specific action plan on how to use the retained mines, the principle is to use them for EOD/engineer units training to detect and destroy anti-personnel mines.
Democratic Republic of the Congo ⁶			
Denmark	60	2,008	Denmark reported that its retained mines are used as follows: a demonstration of the effects of anti-personnel mines is given to all recruits during training; during training of engineer units for international tasks, instructors in mine awareness are trained to handle anti-personnel mines; and, during training of ammunition clearing units, anti-personnel mines are used for training in ammunition dismantling. Anti-personnel mines are not used for the purpose of training in mine laying.
Djibouti ⁷			
Ecuador	2,001	1,000	On 12 September 2007 Ecuador issued a statement indicating that it destroyed on 14 August 2007 a total of 1,001 anti-personnel mines previously retained for training.
El Salvador	96		
Equatorial Guinea ⁸			
Eritrea ⁹		109	
Ethiopia ¹⁰			

⁶ In its report submitted in 2006, the Democratic Republic of the Congo indicated that the decision concerning mines retained is pending.

⁷ In its report submitted in 2005, Djibouti indicated that 2,996 mines were retained under Article 3.

⁸ Equatorial Guinea has not yet submitted a transparency report in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.

⁹ In its report submitted in 2005, Eritrea indicated that the mines retained under Article 3 were inert.

¹⁰ Ethiopia has not yet submitted a transparency report in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
France	4,216	4,170	France reported that its retained mines were used to: 1) test mine detection devices, including the "Mine Picker", a mine detection robot developed by Pegase Instrumentation and the MMSR-SYDERA system. 2) to assess the anti-personnel mine threat, 3) to test protective anti-personnel boots.
Germany	2,525	2,526	Germany reported that it retained anti-personnel mines under Article 3 with the following objectives 1) detection and demining equipment research and testing, 2) vehicle mine protection programme, 3) mine detection dogs, and 4) accident research, for the following projects/activities: 1) Mobile Minesearch and Clearing system, 2) Modular Fragment Protection, 3) Regular dog training at the Dog Handling Centre where the anti-personnel mines are placed in permanent search fields with fusing mechanisms partly or entirely removed. In 2006 at the Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 91, 14 anti-personnel mines were used for the vehicle mine protection programme and accident research, 5 anti-personnel mines were destroyed, 20 anti-personnel mines type MRUD were delivered from the Balkans and 19 anti-personnel mines were transferred to Rheinmetall Unterlüss.
Greece	7,224	7,224	
Guinea-Bissau	109		
Haiti ¹¹			
Honduras	815	826	
Indonesia ¹²			
Ireland	77	75	
Italy	806	750	
Japan	5,350	4,277	Japan reported that it consumed 1,073 mines in 2006 for education and training in mine detection and mine clearance, and for the development of mine detectors and mine clearance equipment.

¹¹ Haiti has not yet submitted a transparency report in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.

¹² Indonesia's report is not due until 28 January 2008 but Indonesia reported at the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention that it had stockpiled anti-personnel mines, some of which will be retained under Article 3 of the Convention.

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
Jordan	1,000	1,000	
Kenya	3,000	2,460	Kenya informed the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention that 540 anti-personnel mines had been used for the purposes described under Article 3. These mines were consumed during humanitarian demining and EODs training, demolition/destruction practical exercises and mine awareness training to peacekeeping contingents deployed to various missions.
Latvia	1,301	902	
Luxembourg	956	900	
Malawi ¹³			
Mali ¹⁴			
Mauritania	728	728	
Montenegro			
Mozambique	1,319		
Namibia	3,899		
Netherlands	2,878		
Nicaragua	1,021	1,004	Nicaragua reported that a total of 17 mines were destroyed in training during 2006. 5 PPMI-SR11 mines were destroyed in May 2006 during a humanitarian demining training course. In addition, 12 PMN mines were deactivated, their explosive parts being removed (charge and detonator), with the aim of using them for retraining and verification of detectors used in the front lines of operations. These mines can be considered destroyed or unusable, since the removed parts were destroyed and can no longer be restored in their technical capacity to function as anti-personnel mines.
Niger	146		
Peru	4,012	4,012	
Portugal	1,115	1,115	
Romania	2,500	2,500	

¹³ In its report submitted in 2005, Malawi indicated that mines reported as retained under Article 3 are in fact “dummy” mines.

¹⁴ In its report submitted in 2005, Mali indicated that 600 mines were retained under Article 3.

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
Rwanda ¹⁵	101		
Sao Tome and Principe ¹⁶			
Serbia ¹⁷	5,507		
Slovakia	1,427	1,427	
Slovenia	2,993	2,993	
South Africa	4,433	4,406	
Spain	2,712	2,034	
Sudan	10,000	10,000	
Suriname	150	150	
Sweden	14,402	10,578	
Tajikistan	225	105	During 2006, Tajikistan destroyed 150 mines in the course of training activities. Mines retained are used for demining training and research activities. For 2007, Tajikistan plans to train 150 servicemen and 12 mine detection dogs.
Thailand	4,761	4,713	
Togo ¹⁸			
Tunisia	5,000	5,000	
Turkey	15,150	15,150	
Ukraine	1,950	1,950	
Uganda ¹⁹			

¹⁵ Rwanda has indicated that the 101 mines declared under Article 3 had been uprooted from minefields to be retained for training purposes.

¹⁶ Sao Tome has not yet submitted a transparency report in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.

¹⁷ In its report submitted in 2006, Serbia indicated that 5,507 mines were retained for training purposes and that 5,000 were transferred for training purposes.

¹⁸ No updated information was provided by Togo in 2006-2007. In 2004, Togo reported retaining 436 mines.

¹⁹ No updated information was provided by Uganda in 2006-2007. In 2005, Uganda reported retaining 1,764 mines.

State Party	Mines reported retained		Additional information volunteered by the State Party
	2006	2007	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1,795	650	The United Kingdom indicated that anti-personnel mines are retained with the objective of identifying APM threat to UK forces and maintaining and improving detection, protection, clearance and destruction techniques. In 2006 1,248 anti-personnel mines were destroyed because they were unsafe.
United Republic of Tanzania	1,146	1,102	The United Republic of Tanzania reported that the Great Lake Region countries plan to utilise mine detection rats in their humanitarian demining efforts, so the Government of Tanzania requested 1,000 deactivated anti-personnel mines from the Government of Mozambique with the aim of training more MDR to respond to the demand of these countries.
Uruguay ²⁰			
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	4,960	4,960	
Yemen	4,000		Yemen indicated that the 4,000 mines were transferred from the military central storage facilities in Sana'a and Aden to the military engineering department training facility and MDDU.
Zambia	3,346	3,346	
Zimbabwe	700	700	Zimbabwe reported that retained mines will be used during training of Zimbabwe's troops and deminers in order to enable them to identify and learn how to detect, handle, neutralise and destroy the mines in Zimbabwean minefields.

²⁰ No updated information was provided by Uruguay in 2006-2007. In 2004, Uruguay reported retaining 500 mines.

Table 2. Anti-personnel mines reported transferred in accordance with Article 3

State Party	Mines reported transferred	Additional information
Canada	22	Transferred from Afghanistan to train Canadian soldiers with anti-personnel mines they are currently facing in Afghanistan.
Eritrea	100	The mines are demined by the teams of EDA from shilalo and transferred to NTC for the purpose of training. [UPDATE REQUIRED]
Moldova	249	Within the period of 19 May-8 June 2006, all 249 remotely controlled anti-personnel mines previously retained by the National Army for the purpose of training were transferred for the purpose of destruction and subsequently destroyed.
Mozambique	120	Mines transferred from Handicap International to APOPO and INTEGRA, two demining operators.
Nicaragua	72	26 PMN mines were transferred from the Nicaraguan Army to the Corps of Engineers and 46 mines were transferred to the army's dogs unit.
Tajikistan	5	Transferred from the storage facilities of the law enforcement units of the Republic of Tajikistan to the engineering units of the Ministry of Defence in 2006 for the purpose of destruction. These mines were confiscated by the law enforcement units as a result of crime control operations.
Thailand	48	
Yemen	4,000	Transferred from the military central storage facilities in Sana'a and Aden to the military engineering department training facility and MDDU.

Note: This table includes only those States Parties that reported mines transferred in accordance with Article 3 since the 7MSP.

Appendix VII**The status of legal measures taken in accordance with Article 9****A. States Parties which have reported that they have adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations**

Albania	Costa Rica	Luxembourg	South Africa
Australia	Croatia	Malaysia	Spain
Austria	Czech Republic	Mali	Sweden
Belarus	El Salvador	Malta	Switzerland
Belgium	Estonia	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Belize	France	Monaco	Turkey
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	New Zealand	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Brazil	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Yemen
Burkina Faso	Honduras	Niger	Zambia
Cambodia	Hungary	Norway	Zimbabwe
Canada	Iceland	Peru	
Chad	Italy	St Vincent and the Grenadines	
Colombia	Japan	Senegal	
	Liechtenstein	Seychelles	

B. States Parties which have reported that they consider existing laws to be sufficient in the context of Article 9 obligations

Algeria	Holy See	Netherlands	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Andorra	Ireland	Papua New Guinea	Tunisia
Argentina	Jordan	Portugal	United Republic of Tanzania
Bulgaria	Kiribati	Romania	
Central African Republic	Lesotho	Samoa	
Denmark	Lithuania	Slovakia	
Greece	Mexico	Slovenia	
Guinea-Bissau	Moldova	Tajikistan	

C. States Parties which have not yet reported having either adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 legislation or that they consider existing laws are sufficient

Afghanistan	Côte d'Ivoire	Jamaica	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Angola	Cyprus ¹	Kenya	Saint Lucia
Antigua and Barbuda	Democratic Republic	Latvia	San Marino
Bahamas	of the Congo	Liberia	Sao Tome and
Bangladesh	Djibouti	Madagascar	Principe
Barbados	Dominica	Malawi	Serbia
Benin	Dominican Republic	Maldives	Sierra Leone
Bhutan	Ecuador	Mauritania	Solomon Islands
Bolivia	Equatorial Guinea	Montenegro	Sudan
Botswana	Eritrea	Mozambique	Suriname
Brunei Darussalam	Ethiopia	Namibia	Swaziland
Burundi	Fiji	Nauru	Thailand
Cameroon	Gabon	Nigeria	Timor-Leste
Cape Verde	Gambia	Niue	Togo
Chile	Ghana	Panama	Turkmenistan
Comoros	Grenada	Paraguay	Uganda
Congo	Guinea	Philippines	Ukraine
Cook Islands	Guyana	Qatar	Uruguay
	Indonesia	Rwanda	Vanuatu
	Haiti		Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

¹ Cyprus reported to the 8MSP that the Ministry of Justice and Public Order has submitted, to the Office of the Attorney General, a bill for relevant legal consideration and that the bill will be submitted soon to the House of Representatives for final approval in order to become a law of the Republic of Cyprus.

Annex I

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

(As adopted at its first plenary meeting on 18 November 2007)

1. Official opening of the meeting.
2. Election of the President.
3. Brief messages delivered by or on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Secretary General of the United Nations.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
6. Adoption of the budget.
7. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the meeting and of other officers.
8. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the meeting.
9. Organization of work.
10. General exchange of views.
11. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention:
 - (a) Universalizing the Convention;
 - (b) Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines;
 - (c) Clearing mined areas;
 - (d) Assisting the victims;
 - (e) Other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims:
 - (i) Cooperation and assistance;
 - (ii) Transparency and the exchange of information;
 - (iii) Preventing and suppressing prohibited activities and facilitating compliance;
 - (iv) Implementation Support.
12. Informal discussions on practical ways to overcoming challenges in implementing Article 5.

13. Consideration of matters arising from / in the context of reports submitted under Article 7.
14. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5.
15. Consideration of requests submitted under Article 8.
16. Date, duration and location of the next Meeting of the States Parties.
17. Any other business.
18. Consideration and adoption of the final document.
19. Closure of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties.

Annex II**AMENDMENT TO FORMS B AND G OF THE ARTICLE 7 REPORTING FORMAT**

(As adopted at the final plenary meeting on 22 November 2007)

**Form B bis: Previously unknown stockpiles of anti-personnel mines discovered after the deadlines have passed
Action 15 of NPA**

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from _____ to _____

Type	Quantity	Lot (if possible)	Supplementary information
Total			

**Form G bis: Previously unknown stockpiles of anti-personnel mines discovered and destroyed after the deadlines have passed
Action 15 of NPA**

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from _____ to _____

Type	Quantity	Lot (if possible)	Supplementary information
Total			

Annex III**TEMPLATE FOR ASSISTING STATES PARTIES
IN REQUESTING AN EXTENSION UNDER ARTICLE 5**

(As adopted at the final plenary meeting on 22 November 2007)

Notwithstanding the mandatory information contained in Article 5.4, use of this template to report this and desired additional information is voluntary.

STATE PARTY: _____

POINT OF
CONTACT: _____

(Name, organization, telephone, fax, email)

Background

Article 5.1 requires each State Party “to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.” Related to this paragraph is the provision in Article 5.3 which states that “if a State Party believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines referred to in paragraph 1 within that time period, it may submit a request to a Meeting of the States Parties or a Review Conference for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of such anti-personnel mines, for a period of up to 10 years.” Article 5.4 proceeds to indicate what each request shall contain. The following template has been prepared to assist States Parties for use on a voluntary basis in providing pertinent information in its request for an extension of its deadline.

Summary

(Please insert a brief summary of the content of the proposed extension request. It is suggested that the summary indicate how much land has been cleared to date, how much affected area is estimated to remain, the approximate time it will take to finish Article 5 obligations, an assessment as to why the deadline could not be achieved, an indication of average productivity to date as well as an indication of expected productivity rates in the future.)

Additional Remarks

Form A: The duration of the proposed extension

Article 5.4 (a) states that each request shall contain ... the duration of the proposed extension.

Date of entry into force	
Date ten years after entry into force	
Proposed end date of extension period	

Please attach the national demining plan for the period of the extension sought, including details on how the progress estimated in Table D.1 is expected to be achieved. This should include details on the institutions/agencies responsible for preparing, endorsing and implementing the national demining plan, the assets that will be deployed, the costs of these assets and annual measures of progress.

Table B.2: Status of work conducted to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in areas under the State Party's jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known to be emplaced

Note: States Parties, particularly those with a large number of mined areas, may wish to append the detailed information called for in Tables B.1 to B.4 in another form as an annex to the extension request. States Parties may wish to append a map displaying mined areas.

Name of area under the State Party's jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were/are known to be emplaced ^a	Total area in which the State Party destroyed or ensured the destruction of all anti-personnel mines contained within ^b	Means used to destroy or ensure the destruction of all emplaced anti-personnel mines, and to assure quality ^c	Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed	Number of other explosive ordnance destroyed ^d
	Total:		Total:	Total:

Remarks:

^a A row should be included for each area listed in Table B.1.

^b This could be denominated, for example, in square metres, hectares, etc. The same type of denomination should be used as in Table B.2.

^c This may include a description of the standards used in demining a particular area and the steps taken to ensure quality.

^d While it is clear that the Convention applies only to anti-personnel mines, States Parties may wish to report on other ordnance found and destroyed as part of a national demining effort.

Table B.3: Remaining work to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in areas under the State Party’s jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known to be emplaced

Note: States Parties, particularly those with a large number of mined areas, may wish to append the detailed information called for in Tables B.1 to B.4 in another form as an annex to the extension request. States Parties may wish to append a map displaying mined areas.

Name of area under the State Party’s jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were/are known to be emplaced ^a	Area in which anti-personnel mines are still known be emplaced which <u>have been</u> perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians	Area in which anti-personnel mines are still known be emplaced which <u>have not been</u> perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians	Area in which the State Party must still destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines contained within ^b	Estimated date for destroying or ensuring the destruction of all anti-personnel mines contained within this area
	Total	Total	Total	

Remarks:

^a A row should be included for each area listed in Table B.1 in which all anti-personnel mines have not yet been destroyed.

^b This could be denominated, for example, in square metres, hectares, etc. The same type of denomination should be used as in previous tables.

Table B.5: National planning and mine action structures

Type of planning and mine action structure	Date of establishment and handover from UN authority (if applicable)	Number of staff	Anticipated Change	Ministry or National Authority Responsible	Mandate or responsibility of the organization

Please provide an organization chart of the planning and mine action structure.

Please provide the title/number of the legislation that established the planning or mine action structure.

Remarks:

(ii) The financial and technical means available to the State Party for the destruction of all the anti-personnel mines

Article 5.4 (b) (ii) states that each request shall contain a detailed explanation for the proposed extension, including the financial and technical means available to the State Party for the destruction of all the anti-personnel mines (in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control).

Table B.6.1: Financial means made available since entry into force to conduct work under national demining programmes

Year: ^a										
Financial resources made available by the State Party										
Financial resources made available by actors other than the State Party										
Totals:										

Remarks including action taken to mobilize resources:

^a A column should be included for each year beginning with the year when the Convention entered into force for the State Party until the present year.

Table B.6.2: Financial resources required and/or available to conduct work under national demining programmes during the period covered by the extension request

Article 6.1 states “In fulfilling its obligations under this Convention each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance, where feasible, from other States Parties to the extent possible.” Article 6.4 states “Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for mine clearance and related activities.”

Year										
Total projected financial requirements										
Financial commitment of the State Party										
Requirements for resources from international financial institutions										
Requirements for financial resources from other external actors										

Remarks:

Table B.6.3. National and international (if applicable) mine clearance expertise and where appropriate national explosive ordnance disposal expertise employed in the demining programme of the State Party for the destruction of all anti-personnel mines since entry into force

Name of mine clearance organization	Type of mine clearance organization	Numbers of organizations	Numbers of demining teams, their size and type	Status of teams (operational, non-operational)	Supplementary information
		Total:	Total:		

Remarks:

Table B.6.4. National and international (if applicable) mine clearance expertise and where appropriate national explosive ordnance disposal expertise expected to be employed in the demining programme during the period covered by the extension request

Name of mine clearance organization	Type of mine clearance organization	Numbers of organizations	Numbers of demining teams, their size and type	Status of teams (operational, non-operational)	Supplementary information
		Total:	Total:		

Remarks including expectations on increases or decreases:

Table B.6.5: International personnel with explosive ordnance disposal expertise engaged to conduct work under national demining programmes during the period covered by the extension request

Name of organization	Type of organization	Numbers of organizations	Numbers of EOD teams	Status of teams (operational, non-operational)	Supplementary information
		Total:	Total:		

Remarks:

Table B.7: Mine clearance equipment in the inventory to support work under national demining programmes during the period covered by the extension request

Date of acquisition	Organization responsible for inventory	Detector type held	Total number of detectors	Percentage serviceable and remaining life		Supplementary information
			Total:	Total:		
Date of acquisition	Organization responsible for inventory	Personal protective equipment type held	Personal protective equipment sets	Percentage serviceable		Supplementary information
			Total:	Total:		
Date of acquisition	Organization responsible for inventory	Mechanical equipment type held	Numbers of equipment held	Percentage serviceable	Number of operators	Supplementary information
			Total:	Total:	Total:	
Date of acquisition	Organization responsible for inventory	Number of dog teams operational	Number of dogs teams in training	Dog age profile		Supplementary information
		Total:	Total:			

Remarks:

(iii) Circumstances which impede the ability of the State Party to destroy all the anti-personnel mines in mined areas

Detailed explanation for the proposed extension, including circumstances which impeded or may impede the ability of the State Party to destroy all the anti-personnel mines in mined areas.

Table B.8: Impeding circumstances

These may include: the original scope of the challenge; lack of control over areas under the State Party’s jurisdiction; environmental factors, climatic factors; geographic factors; unusual technical challenges; degree of financial resources made available by the State Party; degree of financial resources made available by actors other than the State Party in response to appeals made by the State Party; timely establishment of national demining programmes.

Circumstance	Comment on circumstance including whether past, present or expected	Degree to which circumstance may impede ability of the State Party to destroy all the anti-personnel mines in mined areas

Remarks:

Form C: The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the proposed extension

Article 5.4 (c) states that each request shall contain the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the proposed extension.

Table C.1: Humanitarian implications – victims

These may include: number of individuals injured or killed by anti-personnel mines. Please include the sex and age of the victims if known.

Year ^a :										
Civilians injured										
Civilians killed										
Military injured										
Military killed										
Total										

Remarks:

Table C.2: Humanitarian implications – refugees and internally displaced persons

These may include: the estimated number of refugees and internally displaced persons whose return is affected by the existence or suspected existence of areas under the State Party’s jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or are suspected to be emplaced.

^a A column should be included for each year beginning with the year when the Convention entered into force for the State Party until the present year.

Refugees	Internally displaced persons	Total

Remarks:

Table C.3: Social and economic implications

These may include: estimated number of people and communities currently affected; estimated economic cost associated with loss of productive land; impact on national development goals.

Implication	Estimate	Basis for this estimate	Supplementary information

Remarks:

Table C.4: Environmental implications

Mined Area	Implication	Supplementary information

Remarks:

Form D: Any other information relevant to the request for the proposed extension

Article 5.4 (d) states that each request shall contain any other information relevant to the request for the proposed extension.

This may include: a year-by-year plan of the suspected mined area which will be released through technical survey and demining; a year-by-year plan of the mined areas and suspected mined areas which will be perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilian until anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed; a year-by-year plan of the productive land to be released; estimated economic benefit associated with the release of productive land; estimated number of communities that will still be affected by areas.

Table D.1: Progress expected during the period covered by the proposed extension

Year ^a										

^a Include a column for every year covered by the proposed extension.

Annex IV

**REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
SEPTEMBER 2006 - NOVEMBER 2007**

BACKGROUND

1. At the Third Meeting of the States Parties (3MSP) in September 2001, the States Parties endorsed the President's Paper on the Establishment of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and mandated the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to establish the ISU. The 3MSP also encouraged States Parties in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions in support of the ISU. In addition, the States Parties mandated the President of the 3MSP, in consultation with the Coordinating Committee, to finalise an agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on the functioning of the ISU. The GICHD's Foundation Council accepted this mandate on 28 September 2001.

2. An agreement on the functioning of the ISU was finalised between the States Parties and the GICHD on 7 November 2001. This agreement indicates that the Director of the GICHD shall submit a written report on the functioning of the ISU to the States Parties and that this report shall cover the period between two Meetings of the States Parties. This report has been prepared to cover the period between the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP) and the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP).

ACTIVITIES

3. The Nairobi Action Plan, adopted by the States Parties at the First Review Conference on 3 December 2004, complemented by the Geneva Progress Report, continued to provide the ISU with clear and comprehensive direction regarding the States Parties' priorities. Following the 7MSP, the ISU provided the President, the Co-Chairs, the Contact Group Coordinators and the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme with thematic food-for-thought to assist them in their pursuit of the priorities identified by the 7MSP. This helped enable the Coordinating Committee to elaborate the general framework for intersessional work in 2007.

4. The ISU provided ongoing support to the President, the Co-Chairs, the Contact Group Coordinators and the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme in the achievement of the objectives they set for 2007. This involved the provision of advice and support, assisting with preparations for and follow-up from the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees, and making recommendations to the Sponsorship Programme's Donors' Group on linking administering sponsorship (enabling attendance) with supporting effective substantive contributions (enabling participation).

5. Certain Co-Chairs and Contact Group Coordinators again launched ambitious initiatives and the ISU responded accordingly. This continued to be the case with respect to the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance who sought to build upon the efforts of their

predecessors by assisting the 24 most relevant States Parties in inter-ministerial efforts to enhance victim assistance objective setting and planning. Through project funding provided by Australia, Austria, Norway and Switzerland, the ISU was able to retain the position of **victim assistance specialist** in order to provide support to these States Parties in their inter-ministerial processes of establishing objectives and developing and implementing plans. Some degree of support or advice was offered or provided to each of these States Parties. In addition, 14 of these 24 States Parties received specialised **process support** visits.

6. The ISU also supported the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance in organizing a parallel programme during the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees which aimed to make the best possible use of the time dedicated by health, rehabilitation and social services professionals attending the meetings to the work of the Convention. The parallel program stimulated discussion and increased the knowledge of the expert participants on key components of victim assistance with a particular emphasis given, pursuant to the understandings adopted at the First Review Conference, to the place of victim assistance in the broader contexts of disability, health care, social services, and development. Seventeen health, rehabilitation and social services professionals representing their States took part in this programme with participation made possible both through the Sponsorship Programme and courtesy of interpretation services provided by the European Commission.

7. Providing advice and information to individual States Parties on implementation matters became an even more profound aspect of the ISU's work relative to previous years. Due to the priority States Parties have placed on the implementation of Article 5 during the period 2005 to 2009 and the decisions of the 7MSP concerning a process related to Article 5 extension requests, the ISU received an increasing number of requests for advice or support with respect to the mine clearance obligations contained within this Article. The ISU responded by developing a strategy to meet likely needs in this area, implementing it in part by briefing officials or supporting national workshops on preparing extension requests in the capitals of nine of the States Parties with Article 5 deadlines which occur in 2009.

8. The ISU also visited the capitals of two additional States Parties with deadlines in 2009 with a view to supporting the confirmation by them that they have fulfilled their obligations. As well, the ISU made its services known to all other States Parties with deadlines in 2009. In addition, with project funding provided by Norway, the ISU supported Chile and Norway – the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies – in organizing a seminar on the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention in Latin America. To reinforce its efforts on matters concerning the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention, the ISU established the new position of **Mine Action Implementation Specialist**, which was staffed as of 1 September 2007.

9. The ISU continued to provide substantial support to States Parties in fulfilling their Article 7 transparency reporting obligations. This included advising individual and groups of States Parties on their obligations and how to fulfil them, collaborating with the UNDP on developing advice for UN personnel to use in assisting States Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations and supporting the work of the Article 7 Contact Group and its Coordinator.

10. The ISU also responded to numerous other requests for implementation support each month in addition to responding to requests for information from States not parties, the media, and interested organizations and individuals. In addition, the ISU fulfilled its traditional role of communicating information about the Convention, its status and operations at regional workshops convened by States Parties or other actors in South East Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific, South Eastern Europe, North Africa and Latin America.

11. The ISU provided support to States Parties which took advantage of opportunities in 2007 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the key events during the Ottawa Process and the adoption and signing of the Convention. This support included preparing communications materials, making presentations at commemorative events, and, with project funding provided by Austria, supporting Austria in organizing a thematic symposium.

12. In 2006 it was recalled that the ISU's mandate states in part that the rationale for the unit is based on the support provided by the ISU being "critical to ensure that all States Parties could continue to have direct responsibility and involvement in the management and direction of the implementation process." On this basis, the ISU continued to support implementation and participation needs of States Parties that have special needs with one group of States Parties with special needs being small States. With project funding provided by Australia, the ISU implemented Phase 2 of its **Small States Strategy**, which involved supporting Australia and Vanuatu in convening a workshop in Port Vila which sought to address challenges in the pursuit of the aims of the Convention in the Pacific.¹

13. The ISU provided its traditional substantive and organizational support to the President-Designate of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP), working closely with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). In a manner consistent with the ISU's purpose of supporting the States Parties' efforts to implement the Convention and to fulfil their responsibilities related to the general operations of the Convention, a mechanism was established to enable donors to contribute funds to assist the 8MSP host country in fulfilling its responsibilities. The following States Parties made use of this mechanism: Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

14. The ISU continued to collect a large number of pertinent documents for the Convention's Documentation Centre, which is maintained by the ISU as part of its mandate. To ensure greater accessibility to these documents, the GICHD used its core funding (i.e., funds other than those provided voluntarily by States Parties to the ISU Trust Fund) to establish a new physical structure for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Documentation Centre in the premises of the GICHD. In addition, in response to priorities articulated by some States Parties, the ISU began work to house a comprehensive set of resource materials on victim assistance within the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Documentation Centre.

15. In 2007, the ISU continued to receive requests by those with an interest in other issue areas to learn from the experience of implementation support in the context of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

¹ See www.apminebanconvention.org/smallstates.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

16. As indicated in the President's Paper on the Establishment of the Implementation Support Unit and the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD, the GICHD created a Voluntary Trust Fund for activities of the ISU in late 2001. The purpose of this fund is to finance the on-going activities of the ISU, with the States Parties endeavouring to assure the necessary financial resources.

17. In accordance with the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD, the Coordinating Committee was consulted on the 2007 ISU budget.² The 2007 ISU budget was distributed to all States Parties by the President of the 7MSP along with an appeal for voluntary contributions.

18. At the 7MSP, the States Parties agreed on a process to assist them in considering requests for extensions including: (a) that in preparing "an analysis" of extension requests "the President, Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs, in close consultation with the requesting State, should, where appropriate, draw on expert mine clearance, legal and diplomatic advice, using the ISU to provide support;" and, (b) that all States Parties in a position to do so are encouraged "to provide additional, earmarked funds to the ISU Trust Fund to cover costs related to support the Article 5 extensions process." This aspect also was taken into account in the 2007 budget and in the appeal for financing distributed by the President of the 7MSP. Since the 7MSP, contributions for these purposes, totalling CHF 10,815, have been received from Australia, the Czech Republic and Lithuania.

19. In accordance with the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD, the Voluntary Trust Fund's 2006 financial statement was independently audited by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The audit indicated that the financial statement of the Voluntary Trust Fund had been properly prepared in accordance with relevant accounting policies and the applicable Swiss legislation. The audited financial statement, which indicated that the 2006 expenditures of the ISU totalled CHF 467,863, was forwarded to the President, the Coordinating Committee and donors.

² Basic infrastructure costs for the ISU are covered by the GICHD and therefore not included in the ISU budget.

**Contributions to the ISU Voluntary Trust Fund
1 January 2006 to 30 September 2007**

	Contributions received in 2006 (CHF)	Contributions received in 2007 ^a (CHF)
Albania	1'000	1'000
Australia	76'044	80'104
Austria ^b		89'802
Belgium	38'493	48'724
Burundi	600	
Canada	53'660	105'619
Chile	18'150	17'530
Cyprus	2'700	
Czech Republic	56'691	58'593
Estonia	2'340	4'056
Germany	23'357	24'229
Hungary	12'500	
Ireland		24'445
Italy	71'550	
Lithuania		10'000
Malaysia	5'162	
Malta	750	1'800
Mexico	6'250	
Netherlands	32'000	
Nigeria	3'630	
Norway	113'610	
Philippines	1'300	
Senegal	4'827	
Slovenia	6'496	
South Africa	5'305	
Spain	7'950	48'660
Turkey	1'250	1'753
Total contributions	545'615	516'313

^a As of 30 September 2007.

^b The contribution received from Austria in 2007 was intended for the 2006 operations of the ISU.

Annex V

LIST OF DOCUMENTS OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

SYMBOL	TITLE	SUBMITTED BY
APLC/MSP.8/2007/1**	Provisional Agenda	Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
APLC/MSP.8/2007/2**	Provisional Programme of Work	Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
APLC/MSP.8/2007/3*	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Proposed template for assisting States Parties in requesting an extension under Article 5	Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies
APLC/MSP.8/2007/4*	Estimated costs for convening the Eighth 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	Secretariat

APLC/MSP.8/2007/5*	Meetings 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, Rules of Procedure	
APLC/MSP.8/2007/6	Final Report	
APLC/MSP.8/2007/WP.1	Achieving the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan: The Dead Sea Draft Progress Report 2006-2007	President-designate of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties
APLC/MSP.8/2007/L.1	Report on the functioning of the Implementation Support Unit, September 2006 – November 2007	Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
APLC/MSP.8/2007/L.2	Proposal to amend Forms B and G of the Article 7 reporting format	Algeria and Estonia
APLC/MSP.8/2007/INF.1 (English only)	An orientation to the process concerning Article 5 extension requests	President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties
APLC/MSP.8/2007//INF.2 (English/French/Spanish only)	List of Participants	Secretariat
APLC/MSP.8/2007/CRP.1	Draft Final Report	Secretariat

APLC/MSP.8/2007/MISC.1 (English only)	Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction	Kingdom of Swaziland
APLC/MSP.8/2007/MISC.2 (English only)	Provisional List of Participants	Secretariat
APLC/MSP.8/2007/MISC.3/Rev.1 (English only)	Summary of Information provided by States Parties on the implementation of Article 5 in the context of questions posed by the Co-Chairs at the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies	Chile and Norway
APLC/MSP.8/2007/MISC.4 (English only)	Mid-Term Review of the Status of Victim Assistance in the Context of the AP Mine Ban Convention and the <i>Nairobi Action Plan</i> in the 24 Relevant States Parties	Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration: Austria and Sudan

The above documents are available in all official languages through the Official Document System of the United Nations at <http://documents.un.org>.