

DRAFT REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTIPERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION: 2014-2019

Introduction

The Convention provides a framework to “put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines” by ensuring universal adherence to a comprehensive set of prohibitions not to use, stockpile, produce and transfer anti-personnel mines, by clearing mined areas, destroying stockpiles and assisting victims. The Convention also foresees that certain matters are essential for achieving progress in these areas, including: cooperation and assistance; transparency and the exchange of information; measures to prevent and suppress prohibited activities and to facilitate compliance; and, implementation support.

Since the Third Review Conference of the Convention held in Maputo in 2014, progress has been made in meeting the purpose and objectives of the Convention. While regular progress continues to be made, challenges remain to reach a mine-free world. This review is intended to record the progress made by the States Parties in fulfilling their obligations since the Third Review Conference. It will take stock of the current status of implementation, document the decisions, recommendations and understandings adopted by the States Parties since the Maputo Review Conference. Furthermore, it is intended to provide an analysis of the current state of affairs and on this basis highlight challenges that remain in fulfilling the obligations of the Convention.

I. Universalizing the Convention

1. Universalization of the Convention remains a priority for the States Parties in order to achieve the determination of the States Parties “to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines” as indicated in the preamble of the Convention. While great progress has been made in this regard, much remains to be accomplished.
2. By 27 June 2014, at the close of the Maputo Review Conference, 161 States had ratified or had acceded to the Convention. As of 27 June 2014, the Convention had entered into force for all 161 States that had ratified or acceded to the Convention.
3. Since the Maputo Review Conference, three States acceded to the Convention with the Convention having entered into force for all three States – Oman (20 August 2014), Sri Lanka (13 December 2017) and the State of Palestine (29 December 2017). There are now 164 States that have formally expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention. [A list of the States Parties, their ratification/accession/succession dates and the dates of entry into force can be found in appendix I.] Today, there are 33 States which are not yet party to the Convention including one signatory State: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Marshall Islands (signatory), Micronesia, and Fed. States of, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

4. At the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties agreed to promote formal adherence to the Convention by States not party to the Convention, regularly inviting them to participate in the Convention's meetings and inform States Parties of practical steps taken, such as formalised commitments not to use, produce or transfer anti-personnel mines, or to destroy stockpiles. Since the Maputo Review Conference, in keeping with the States Parties' tradition of openness, all States not party were invited to each of the Convention's intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and to the Fourth Review Conference. The following 15 States not party took part in at least one of the Convention's meetings since 2014: Azerbaijan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syria Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America. Many of these States expressed their support for the humanitarian aims of the Convention and some indicated the manner in which they support States Parties in fulfilling their obligations.
5. One measure of States' acceptance of the Convention's norms is through support expressed for the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on the implementation of the Convention. In the most recent vote on this resolution (**2019**), the following [**INSERT NUMBER OF STATES**] States not party to the Convention voted in favour: [**INSERT RESULTS OF 2019**]
6. In voting in favour of the resolution, many States not party acknowledge and support to various degrees the humanitarian goals of the Convention and highlight the grave consequences of the use of anti-personnel mines. States not party provide many different reasons for not acceding to the Convention. In some cases proceeding with accession is dependent on the accession of another State, generally a neighbouring State. Other States not party have indicated that accession is tied to sovereignty issues or is just one of many competing priorities for the limited internal resources available. Finally, others perceive that the marginal military utility derived from anti- personnel mines is not outweighed by the grave humanitarian consequences of their use.
7. Whereas prior to the adoption of the Convention the use of anti-personnel mines was widespread, there are now few countries within which new use occurs. Since the Maputo Review Conference, new use has been recorded in [Insert number] States not party [Insert names]. Not only does the Convention's prohibition on the use of anti-personnel mines bind its 164 parties, but the Convention's norm of no-use also has enjoyed widespread acceptance by States not party to the Convention for example as follows:
 - a. Seven States not party – Egypt, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Singapore - have reported having put in place moratoria on the use, production, export and/or import of anti-personnel mines. Very few States not party have officially indicated stockpiling anti-personnel mines or the extent of their stockpiling, if relevant.
 - b. All States not party to the exception of four – Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the republic of Korea and Uzbekistan – have participated at least once in a Convention related meeting. Some States not party regularly deliver statements to provide information about their State's position on the Convention and/or on their activities to implement certain provisions of the Convention as well as their contribution to mine action activities.
 - c. Almost all of the States not party which have contributed information on their position have acknowledged and supported the humanitarian aims of the Convention and have recognized

the threat of the “indiscriminate” use of mines.

8. The production of anti-personnel mines remains rare. At one time more than 50 States produced anti-personnel mines. Thirty-six (36) of these States are now parties to the Convention and have ceased and prohibited all production, in line with the Convention: [Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe.]
9. Licit trade in anti-personnel mines remains non-existent. By having joined the Convention, 164 of the world’s States have accepted a legally-binding prohibition on transfers of anti-personnel mines. Even for most States not party to the Convention, this has become the accepted norm, with, as indicated above, many of these States having put in place moratoria or bans on transfers of the weapon. While any trade likely is limited to a very low level of illicit trafficking.
10. Notwithstanding the tremendous progress achieved in the pursuit of the universal acceptance of the Convention and its norms, challenges persist. While new emplacements of anti-personnel mines by states are rare, since the Maputo Review Conference, new use of anti-personnel mines has been recorded by [Insert number] States not party to the Convention: [Insert names of States]. No use by a State Party has been recorded since the Maputo Review Conference.
11. States Parties have reported on the use of anti-personnel mines by non-State actors including in: Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Ukraine and Yemen. At the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties resolved to continue to promote universal observance of the Convention’s norms and objective, condemned violations of these norms and take appropriate steps to end the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including by armed non-state actors. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties have acknowledged the importance, of continued efforts to condemn the use of mines by any actor ensuring that the stigmatization of use of anti-personnel mines remains strong. Since the Maputo Review Conference, subsequent Presidents of the Convention have expressed deep concern in response to new emplacements of anti-personnel mines and called for actors concerned to cease the use of anti-personnel mines. Since the Third Review Conference, the States Parties at their annual Meeting of the States Parties have condemned the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor.
12. Since the Maputo Review Conference, 3 additional armed non-State actors signed the Geneva Call’s “Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action” bringing to [Insert number] the number of armed non-State actors that have made this commitment.
13. While the vast majority of States with anti-personnel mines in areas under their jurisdiction or control —64 have joined the Convention, it is estimated that 22 have not. All 22 of these States perceives or may perceive that they derive utility from emplaced mines and are, or may be, in essence, users of anti-personnel mines. Moreover, while the vast majority of States with stockpiled anti-personnel mines – 91 – have joined the Convention, [Insert number] of the States not party to the Convention possess or may possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines.
14. In addition, States not party can submit voluntary Article 7 reports to communicate information

about the key areas of implementation of the Convention. Those States that have expressed support for the object and purpose of the Convention have been particularly encouraged to provide voluntary transparency reports. Since the Maputo Review Conference, Morocco submitted such a report every year.

15. In light of the universalisation challenges noted at the Maputo Review Conference and commitments made to overcome these challenges, each year the President and the Convention Special Envoys have continued to make themselves available to engage States not party to the Convention at a high level. Efforts in this regard have been supported by the European Union through a European Union Council Decision in support of the implementation of the Convention as well as through the efforts made by the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the AU, ARMAC, the ICRC and the ICBL who have continued to promote acceptance of the Convention through bi-lateral dialogue as well as through the holding of seminars on the implementation of the Convention.
16. Given their resolve to achieve universal adherence to the Convention and its norms, the States Parties agreed at the Maputo Review Conference to coordinate their actions to promote the Convention, including actions taken at a high level, through bilateral contacts and in multilateral fora, and request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary, to continue promoting universalization by inviting States not party to join the Convention as soon as possible.
17. In order to ensure success of Universalization efforts, continuous engagement with States not Party will be required by both States Parties and organizations. While accession is the ultimate objective, States not party may be encouraged to take concrete steps towards accession such as enacting moratorium on the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines, destroying stockpiled mines, submitting voluntary transparency reports and participating in the work of the Convention.
18. The States Parties have recognized that it is their joint responsibility to engage States not Party and encourage these States to take steps towards accession of the Convention as soon as possible. In order to further this aim of the States Parties their efforts should be complemented by the engagement of international and non-governmental organizations with these States to advocate for the accession/ratification of the Convention as soon as possible. Taking into account the specific situation and context of the State not party, the States Parties have noted the need for a tailored and coordinated approach to encouraging States not party to take steps toward accession to the Convention. This could happen through a number of means including demarches at a national and international level, continue encouragement for States not parties to attend meetings of the Convention, hosting of national and regional events on the Convention and ensuring high level engagement, amongst others.

II. Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

19. At the close of the Maputo Review Conference, there were five States Parties for which the obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained relevant – Belarus, Finland, Greece, Poland and Ukraine. In addition to these States, one State Party – Somalia – was in the process of verifying its stockpiles and one State Party - Tuvalu – needed to confirm whether they held stockpiled anti-personnel mines or not.
20. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the following has transpired:

- a. the Convention entered into force for three States including Oman and Sri Lanka which reported stockpiled anti- personnel mines requiring destruction in accordance with Article 4 - Oman and Sri Lanka.
 - b. four of the States Parties for which the obligation remained has reported that it has completed the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4 - Belarus, Finland, Oman and Poland.
 - c. one State Party which was in the process of verifying if its stockpiles contain anti-personnel mines has reported that it does not possess any stockpiled mines - Somalia
21. There are now three States Parties for which the obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines remains relevant – Greece, Sri Lanka and Ukraine – with two of these States Parties being non-compliant since 1 March 2008 (Greece) and 1 June 2010 (Ukraine). The States Parties agreed at the Third Review Conference that “each State Party that has missed its deadline for the completion of its Article 4 obligations will provide to the States Parties, through the President, by 31 December 2014, a plan for the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its control or jurisdiction as soon as possible, and thereafter keep the States Parties apprised of efforts to implement its plan through annual transparency reports and other means.” Since the Third Review Conference States Parties implementing stockpile destruction programmes have responded to this call by reporting on progress made and the remaining challenge and by engaging with the Presidency in this regard. The States Parties recognize the continued importance of States providing clarity on the status of stockpile destruction as well as the importance of State Parties providing concrete timelines for implementation of obligations under Article 4.
22. As noted previously, one State Party, which is presumed not to hold stocks, has not yet provided its required initial transparency information and hence has not yet confirmed the presence or absence of stockpiled anti-personnel mines –Tuvalu. Tuvalu’s report was due on 28 August 2012. Hence, there are now 161 States Parties which no longer hold stocks of anti-personnel mines because they never did or have completed their destruction programmes. Together these States Parties have reported the destruction of almost 53 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines.
23. At the Maputo Review Conference, it was agreed that all States Parties will, in instances of discovery of previously unknown stockpiles, after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed, inform the States Parties as soon as possible, report pertinent information as required by the Convention, and destroy these antipersonnel mines as a matter of urgent priority and no later than six months after the report of their discovery. Since the Maputo Review Conference, 4 States Parties have reported the discovery of previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines - Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mauritania and Palau - in accordance with the commitments made in the Maputo Action Plan. Together these States Parties reported the destruction of 3,457 stockpiled anti-personnel mines that had been previously unknown. The States Parties highlighted the importance of continuing to report the discovery of previously unknown stockpiles and ensuring their destruction as soon as possible following their discovery.

III. Retention of Anti-Personnel Mines

24. At the Maputo Review Conference, it was agreed that “all States Parties that have retained anti-personnel mines for reasons permitted by the Convention will regularly review the number of retained anti-personnel mines to ensure that they constitute the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes [and] destroy all those exceeding that number”. At the Maputo Review Conference, it was recorded that 75 States Parties had reported, as required by Article 7, paragraph 1 d), anti-personnel mines for the development of training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention.
25. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the following has transpired:
- a. Three States Parties – Algeria, Australia and Uruguay – which previously reported anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes – indicated that they now retain no anti-personnel mines for these purposes.
 - b. Two States Parties reported retaining anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes for the first time – Oman and Sri Lanka.
 - c. One State Party – State of Palestine – reported for the first time that it does not retain anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.
 - d. One State Party - Tajikistan – reported that it retains anti-personnel mines again.
 - e. One State Party – Tuvalu - has not yet declared whether it retains anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.
 - f. Two States Parties – Afghanistan and the United Kingdom – have confirmed that the anti-personnel mines it retains under Article 3 are inert and therefore do not fall under the definition of the Convention.
26. There are now 73 States Parties that have reported that they retain anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes: Angola, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The number of anti-personnel mines reported retained by the States Parties is totals 162,954 anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3.
27. Since the Maputo Review Conference, most States Parties have provided annual information on anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes as required by Article 7. However the following States Parties which have reported that they retain anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 3 have not submitted annual transparency information on their retained mines for many years: [Insert names of States].
28. Furthermore, in some cases, since the Maputo Review Conference, the following States Parties have reported the same number of retained mines for the last years in their Article 7 Reports indicating that these mines have not been used for permitted purposes: [Insert names of States]. Consideration should therefore be given to reviewing the number of mines retained to ensure that they constitute the “minimum number absolutely necessary” for permitted purposes and destroy all those exceeding that number.

29. In addition to the above, at the Maputo Review Conference, it was agreed that “where appropriate States Parties would explore available alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines for training and research activities”. Since the Maputo Review Conference, Australia has indicated that it has destroyed its retained mines and now employs training mines for training.

IV. Clearing mined areas

30. At the close of the Maputo Review Conference, 59 States Parties had reported areas under their jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced and hence had been or were required to fulfil the obligations contained in Article 5 of the Convention: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Gambia, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Jordan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, , Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

31. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the following has transpired:

- a. The Convention entered into force for three States Parties that have reported areas under their jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced - Oman, Sri Lanka and the State of Palestine.
- b. One State Party which had initially reported the absence of mined areas under its jurisdiction or control has now reported the presence of new mined areas under its jurisdiction or control – Ukraine.
- c. 3 States Parties that had reported areas under their jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced reported that they had completed implementation of Article 5 of the Convention - Algeria, Mozambique, and Mauritania.

32. In total, since the entry into force of the Convention, 63 States Parties have reported obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention. Of these, 31 have now reported that they have fulfilled their obligations to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas. There are now 32 that must still fulfil this obligation: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Niger, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

33. At the time of writing, a total of 32 States Parties¹ are currently in the process of implementing commitments under Article 5: Afghanistan ,Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea,

Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

34. While significant and measurable progress has been achieved in the implementation of Article 5, a number of States Parties have faced challenges. Some of the persistent challenges reported by States Parties include lack of financial resources, security concerns, border challenges and matters concerning access to contaminated areas. In the case of four States Parties – Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq and Yemen – the continued use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature has been reported as a significant challenge in implementation of Article 5. In some cases, this includes in terms of the extent of their use as well as in their placement in urban environments requiring different approaches to be taken than traditional mine clearance methods.
35. In the Maputo Action Plan, the States Parties expressed their resolve to “identify the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines” Furthermore, in the Maputo Action Plan, it was agreed that each State Party “will ensure as soon as possible that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention...”¹³ The States Parties have recognized that in doing so, some States Parties may find themselves in a situation wherein they could proceed with implementation faster in implementation of Article 5.
36. Since the Maputo Review Conference approximately 10 of the 32 States Parties implementing Article 5 have completed survey activities or are in the process of carrying out survey to acquire more clarity on the remaining challenge. For example, since the Maputo Review Conference Angola has completed nationwide resurvey and today has a more accurate picture of the remaining challenge. Likewise, Bosnia and Herzegovina has launched non-technical survey activities to more clearly define the remaining challenge and to develop a concrete completion plan. While progress in this regard has been recorded a number of States Parties continue to report large swaths of land as suspected requiring survey. Achieving this aim remains an important objective of the States Parties in order to develop comprehensive work plans that will lead to completion and to ensure the appropriate prioritization of mine clearance operations.
37. The Maputo Action Plan highlights that “land release methodologies will be evidence-based, accountable and acceptable to local communities, including through the participation of affected communities, including women, girls, boys and men, in the process.” Since the Maputo Review Conference, the importance of ensuring an evidence based approach to avoid erroneously identifying areas as suspected or confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines has been highlighted as key to the efficient and effective implementation of the Convention.
38. Ensuring that gender and age considerations are reflected throughout the survey and clearance process has been accepted as central to ensure that comprehensive information on contamination is collected and the overall results of the clearance process have positive socio-economic impact. While progress has been made in this regard, progress has not been systematic, there remains an increased need to include gender-focused objectives in organizational strategies and increasing the conduct of gender analysis while ensuring that this information is used to guide operational planning.
39. Since the Maputo Review Conference more than half of the 32 States Parties reported having

established and applied the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies evidenced by the reports of an increased amount of area being cancelled and reduced as opposed to cleared. In spite of this, large amounts of area continue to be cleared which may have been released through other means, continuous improvements on operational efficiency will be important to ensure completion “as soon as possible”.

40. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on Land Release have been further updated to support States Parties in this endeavour and ensure an “evidence based approach” to survey and clearance. In this regard, it is important that national mine action standards are in line with best practices highlighted in IMAS and applied. Furthermore the States Parties have recognized that the remaining challenge and progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States implementing Article 5 obligations used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS (i.e. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”; disaggregating data by activity that is non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance; reporting progress according to the result of each activity that is land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).
41. As indicated above, since the Maputo Review Conference a number of States Parties – Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Yemen - have reported an increase in the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature by armed non-state actors which has led to an overall increase in victims and in some cases slowed down progress towards completion of Article 5 implementation. In 2018, at the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation” recalled that “the definition contained in Article 2.1 makes no distinction between an anti-personnel mine that has been “manufactured” and one that has been “improvised”, since negotiators aimed for an effect based definition. In this context, “States Parties affected by the latter type of anti-personnel mines must address them as part of their overall implementation challenge under the Convention including, in the fulfilment of Article 5 and Article 7 (transparency measures) commitments.”² Building awareness of this understanding has been identified as an important endeavour as additional States may currently face a threat of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature or may in the future be affected by this threat.
42. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties have expressed the need to recall their understandings of Article 5 obligations. At the 17MSP, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation recalled that “all areas falling under the definition of a “mined area” and containing “antipersonnel mines” must be addressed in order to meet the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. This obligation is independent of the difficulty to access a “mined area” or of the type of anti-personnel mines emplaced (e.g. manufactured or of an improvised nature).”³
43. States Parties continue to see the importance of declaring completion in an unambiguous manner and employing language adopted by the States Parties in the voluntary declaration of completion adopted by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties to avoid confusion concerning the scope and meaning of the State Party’s achievement. In this regard and with the aim to provide support to States Parties in declaring completion in an unambiguous manner, the States Parties at the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties welcomed the following understandings and

² Reflections and understandings on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, APLC/MSP.17/.....

³ Ibid.

recommendations concerning declaring completion:

- a. *States Parties should continue the voluntary practice of submitting to a Meeting of the States Parties/Review Conference a declaration of completion that incorporates the language adopted by the 7MSP and 12MSP. In addition, the Committee further recommends that States Parties when formally declaring completion provide detailed information on the activities carried out throughout the duration of the mine action programme taking into account the elements included in annex I (Draft table of content for a voluntary declaration of completion)*
- b. *In keeping with the traditional spirit of cooperation of the Convention, that States Parties in a position to declare completion, employ the services of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit in the elaboration of the declaration of completion and consider sustaining a cooperative dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation concerning the content of the declaration of completion, which could lead to an enhanced declaration of completion.*

44. The States Parties continue to recognize that a State Party may, after declaring completion and after its original or extended deadlines to implement Article 5 have expired, in exceptional circumstances, discover a previously unknown mined area (as defined by Article 2.5 of the Convention), including a newly mined area, under its jurisdiction or control that is known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. In such circumstances States Parties will implement the rational response to such situations as adopted by States Parties at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties. With this said, the States Parties recognized the importance of ensuring the terminology such as “residual contamination” is not used unambiguously stating that “areas that are known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines cannot be considered ‘residual contamination’ and must be addressed under the State Party’s obligations under the convention”.

45. [INSERT EXAMPLE OF STATE PARTY]

46. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the increased number of victims and the laying of new mined areas have increased the importance of ensuring that well targeted mine risk reduction and education programmes with a focus on gender and age are in place and that mine risk education programmes continue to be an important pillar of protection. Prioritizing risk education in mine action operations and linking risk education to survey, clearance and victim assistance operations is critical for an effective response.

47. Since the Maputo Review Conference the link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention’s mine clearance objectives has been emphasized in particular its role in supporting development and recovery efforts in States affected by conflicts. Likewise, the role of mine action in supporting humanitarian response has been increasingly highlighted along with the importance of building synergies between mine action and humanitarian and development actors to ensure an effective response to the threat presented by anti-personnel mines. This has included efforts, for example, to integrate mine action into relevant development plans as well as in all relevant Humanitarian Response Plans.

V. Assisting the victims

48. At the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties reemphasized their commitment to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society. The States Parties recognized the importance of the commitments made under the Cartagena Action Plan and stressed that engagement in other domains is also necessary in view of the States Parties' understanding that victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction.
49. Since the Maputo Review Conference, a number of States Parties have reported progress in the implementation of all or some or all of the victim assistance actions of the Maputo Action Plan including having carried out data collection efforts and assessments of the needs of victims, put forward efforts to expand services, enacted legislation and implemented policies to support mine victims, carried out efforts to ensure inclusion and socio-economic reintegration of mine victims, having put in place inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms and established victim assistance action plans ,amongst other activities. Still, other States Parties have not reported having implemented some or all of the victim assistance action of the Maputo Action Plans. In this regard, the Committee on Victim Assistance has noted the importance of States Parties reporting, not solely on their progress, but also on their challenges in progressing with implementation.
50. Since the Third Review Conference, with the accession of Sri Lanka to the Convention, the number of States Parties that have reported a responsibility for significant number of mine survivors includes the following 30 States: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe. In 2019 of the [30] States Parties which have indicated a responsibility for a significant number of mine survivors [Insert number] have reported information on progress in victim assistance.
51. Since the Maputo Review Conference, while the number of victims has been in decline in most States Parties, the number of victims globally has soared due primarily to the new use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature in States Parties in conflict situations. In addition to this, States Parties have reported that some of the greatest challenges affecting their progress in implementation of victim assistance efforts include the lack of inter-agency coordination, lack of reliable data, lack of services and technical expertise in remote areas, lack of financial and technical resources and an overall awareness of the rights of mine survivors, amongst others. The Maputo Action Plan contains seven actions specific to victim assistance (actions #12 through to #18). Through these actions, the States Parties committed themselves to address issues identified as being central to the provision of victim assistance.
52. The States Parties have recognized the importance of data collection in order to identify gaps and develop measurable plans containing SMART objectives. Since the Maputo Review Conference a number of States Parties such as Albania, Cambodia, El Salvador, Jordan, Sudan and Tajikistan, amongst others, have reported having a system in place to carried out needs assessments to identify mine victims, register new victims and to identify their needs, priorities and challenges that hinder service delivery to mine victims in their respective countries. Others have reported being in the process of conducting survey, verification and consolidation of data Such concrete information on the challenges to provide an adequate response to mine victims also places States in a better

position to plan, prioritise, mobilise resources and execute effective assistance to mine survivors and persons with disabilities and improve measurability. While progress has been made in a number of States Parties, other States Parties have reported on obstacles to carry out this initial step. In this regard, States that have not done so are encouraged to work on carrying out such assessments.

53. In support of data collection effort, States Parties have highlighted the importance of ensuring that ongoing injury surveillance systems are strengthened as a fundamental public health tool to monitor the physical impact of explosive ordnance and support the identification of at-risk populations, predict patterns and recognize risk factors. A critical aspect of this is ensuring that timely data on the physical impact of mines, disaggregated by effect, cause, age, sex, date, and location is collected and operationalized in the response. A coordinated approach from all sectors has been recognized as pivotal to achieve this end.
54. Since the Maputo Review Conference, a clear majority of the States Parties with responsibility for significant numbers of mine victims have invested efforts in developing inclusive plans of action, increasingly integrating the imperatives of victim assistance into broader plans related to disabilities, health and social welfares. For example, Thailand reported implementing a Master Plan for Mine Victim Assistance that also enhanced the integration of victim assistance provisions into policies and programmes of ministries of health and social development. Sudan has developed a comprehensive plan – National Strategic Framework on Victim Assistance for the period of 2016 to 2019 - and allocated substantial national resources for its implementation-Work has begun on the assessment and renewal of the plan. Still others have reported being in the process of developing inclusive plans of actions. However, States Parties have also reported challenges in achieving the full objectives of action plans, primarily due to shortages in resources and technical capacities.
55. Ensuring accessibility to services continues to be a critical element of victim assistance and a common challenge amongst a number of States Parties. However, since the Third Review Conference many States Parties have reported progress in this regard. One example is Tajikistan where efforts have been launched to remove physical barriers, by enforcing new accessibility standards not only in its capital but also in the different provinces including by training hundreds of architects and authorities responsible for constructions of public buildings in the country. Likewise, Iraq has been working on the expansion of rehabilitation support to mine survivors and all those in need, including by reconstruction of rehabilitation centres that have been damaged and developing national capacities throughout the country. Additional efforts will be necessary in coordinating efforts to ensure the accessibility of services as well as socio-economic reintegration support for mine survivors and persons with disabilities in remote areas.
56. Since the third Review Conference a number of States Parties have reported on efforts to strengthen inclusion and raising awareness of the rights of mine victims. Inclusion and participation of mine victims have been widely embraced by States, although measuring inclusion and participation remains a challenge. Nevertheless, increased participation of mine survivors in victim assistance or disability programmes has been reported in a number of States Parties such as Mozambique, Colombia, Peru, South Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, El Salvador, Iraq, Senegal, Afghanistan and Serbia which have reported increased participation of mine survivors including an active presence in coordination forums Coordinated national efforts to ensure the right of mine survivors as well as other persons with disability will be important in this regard. This is particularly important to ensure the socio-economic reintegration of mine survivors into their communities.

57. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been seen as highly complementary to the rights-based approach of victim assistance under the Convention. They also offer opportunities for continued efforts of strengthening synergies between relevant frameworks which has been a central effort of the Convention. In this regard, the States Parties have recognized the continued importance of increasing and consolidating synergies between the Convention and other instruments associated with health, development, disability and human rights, amongst others, to provide comprehensive and sustainable support to mine victims and survivors including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Human Rights Council, the World Health Organization, the ICRC and civil society with an emphasis on reaching the most marginalized persons.
58. States Parties implementing victim assistance activities have highlighted a lack of financial support as an obstacle in implementation. In addition to targeted assistance to victim assistance the Committee on Victim Assistance has highlighted the importance of ensuring increased and structured coordination between broader frameworks supporting efforts in, health, development and disability, amongst other, will be essential to take advantage of diverse expertise and funding streams. In this regard, the Committee on Victim Assistance has continued its efforts to reach out to broader frameworks and partners including the OHCHR, the ILO and the WHO. Without integrating victim assistance in broader policies and programmes we will not be able to sustain assistance to victims.
59. Since the Maputo Review Conference the Committee on Victim Assistance has continued its work of reaching out to raise awareness, in relevant fora, of the importance of addressing the needs and guaranteeing the rights of mine victims in broader domains such as health care, disability and human rights, development, poverty reduction, and employment. In implementing its mandate the Committee on Victim Assistance continued to participate and raise awareness of victim assistance during meetings of the Human Rights Council, the World Health Assembly, and meetings of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and with the ILO. The Committee has held conversations on multiple occasions with the Committee of the CRPD. The Committee continued to promote synergies by supporting recommendations being put forward by the WHO on assistive technology and emergency trauma care, as well as, for example, recommending the CRPD to develop a general comment on Article 11.
60. Since the Maputo Review Conference, ensuring that a gender and age sensitive approach is taken when collecting casualty data and providing access and delivering services has been increasingly recognized as essential to realizing the aim of the SDGs and ensure that efforts are “leaving no-one behind.” However, as mentioned in a previous section, the systematization of data collection and operationalization of information collected could be improved.
61. Since the Maputo Review Conference a number of symposiums, seminars and conferences aimed at raising awareness of the rights of mine survivors have been held. Some of the results have been the gaining of a deeper understanding of the rights based approach to victim assistance, the importance of gender and age based approaches, the importance of timely data provided in disaggregated fashion and the need for affordable and accessible support. Since the Maputo Review Conference, it is evident that an increased number of States Parties are reporting in a manner disaggregated by gender and age and on efforts to integrate victim assistance into broader frameworks. Nonetheless, continued engagement with States Parties will be important to ensure that the trend continues and to continue ensuring rights based approach to victim assistance.

62. With the support of the 2017 EU Council Decision in support of the implementation of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan, Iraq and Uganda held national stakeholder meetings to look at the current status of victim assistance efforts, remaining challenges and to propose a way forward for implementation. The inclusive and participatory nature of these National stakeholder dialogues allowed for an important exchange of information between partners to determine the best manner in which to proceed with implementation. [insert information on results]

VI. Cooperation and Assistance

63. Cooperation and Assistance is a key element of the Convention engrained in Article 6 on International cooperation and assistance. At the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties reaffirmed that while each State Party is responsible for the implementation the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, the Convention's shared goal can be advanced through enhanced cooperation. To this end, the Maputo Action Plan contained six actions to be taken by the States Parties to significantly improve cooperation between those seeking assistance and those in a position to provide assistance. At the Maputo Review Conference a Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance was established to address this important element of the Convention.

64. Since the Maputo Review Conference, a number of States Parties have reported the lack of funding as one of the main obstacles to implementation of their commitments under the Convention. In this regard all States Parties, in a position to do so, have been encouraged to consider providing support to States Parties in order to make significant progress in implementation. In addition, as highlighted in the Maputo Action Plan, States Parties seeking to receive assistance can implement measures to facilitate cooperation and assistance.

65. National ownership continues to have a central role in fostering cooperation and assistance. At the Maputo Review Conference, it was agreed that "each State Party seeking assistance will do its utmost to demonstrate high level national ownership". The States Parties have recognized that while national ownership will not guarantee that resources will flow in response to needs, demonstrating national ownership makes it significantly more likely that cooperation will flourish between those with needs and those in a position to provide assistance. Since the Maputo Review Conference, a number of States Parties continue demonstrating a high level of national ownership through the development of national strategies and plans as well as through the provision of significant financial contributions to the implementation of their commitments under the Convention.

66. [innovative funding]

67. In the Maputo Action Plan, the States Parties indicated that "States Parties in a position to provide assistance and those seeking to receive assistance, where relevant and to the extent possible, will enter into partnerships for completion, with partners specifying their responsibilities to each other, articulating age-and gender-sensitive time bound objectives and targets, making financial or other commitments, if possible on a multi-year basis, and engaging regularly in a dialogue on progress and challenges in meeting goals." Many States Parties implementing core commitments under the Convention sustain a regular dialogue with their stakeholder. In other cases, the lack of regular inclusive discussions concerning the implementing of the programme is viewed as a challenge. Strengthening national platforms for regular dialogue between stakeholders should be seen as a priority in this regard.

68. Since the Maputo Review Conference the States Parties have recognised the importance of partnerships and ensuring that the conversation between stakeholders at the international and national level is robust and regular in order to ensure effective and efficient implementation of commitments under the Convention. In this regard, since the Third Review Conference the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance launched the “individualized approach” which aims to facilitate a platform for individual affected states to provide – on a voluntary, informal basis – detailed information on the challenges it faces and its requirements for assistance with the aim of fulfilling their obligations under the Convention in an effective and expedient way. The individualised approach provides an opportunity to connect with the donor community (including possible partners for South-South or regional cooperation), mine action operators, and other stakeholders and establish an initial dialogue that could help facilitate the establishment of partnerships. Since its establishment seven States Parties have participated - Angola, Croatia, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.
69. Following participation of a number of States Parties in the individualised approach, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation held consultations with a wide range of actors including those States that participated in the individualized approach (IA) to receive feedback on the approach to continue improving the process. Some of the key conclusion included the following:
- a. The IA is a valuable complement to the work of the Convention and offers a good opportunity for States Parties to share their progress and challenges with States and organisation and to share their needs for cooperation and assistance, an opportunity that is not presented in the plenary given the short time allotted to presentations from States Parties and discussions with States Parties;
 - b. The IA should not be viewed as a one-off event but forms part of the State Party’s wider transparency, communication and resource mobilization efforts;
 - c. Follow-up to the IA meetings is necessary in order to gain from the momentum generated during the meeting;
 - d. Collaboration with national and international stakeholders in-country in the development and planning of the IA, including the agenda and presentations has proven extremely valuable;
 - e. The IA cannot replace a lively and robust national dialogue, but should complement it.
70. In light of the feedback received from discussions on the individualised approach on the need to strengthen partnerships and the importance of in-country coordination to efficiently and effectively achieve the aims of the Convention, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance presented a draft paper for enhancing in-country national coordination for input from States Parties. At the 22-24 May 2019 intersessional meetings the Committee held an informal discussion on this matter and requested input from the plenary on a draft paper concerning the establishment of in-country National Mine Action Platforms. [INSERT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE RESULT OF CONSULTATIONS ON NATIONAL PLATFORMS]
71. In 2017 the Council of the European Union adopted a Decision in support of the implementation of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan providing financial support for up to 10 national stakeholder consultations on mine clearance and victim assistance matters. Since the Maputo Review Conference victim assistance national stakeholder dialogues have been held in Iraq and Uganda and mine clearance national stakeholder dialogues have been held in Bosnia and

Herzegovina and in Senegal. The national stakeholder dialogues were well received and their value in supporting the national programmes was recognized by participants. The stakeholder dialogues succeeded in gathering stakeholders and provided an important platform to discuss the status of implementation and to design a way forward in an inclusive manner. Stakeholder Dialogues also provided an opportunity to discuss cooperation and assistance and ways in which cooperation and assistance could be strengthened through improved reporting, planning and coordination. Follow-up actions continue to take place since the initial dialogues. [In addition to these dialogues on 10-12 September 2019, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with support of the EU will convene a global conference on assistance to victims of landmine and other explosive remnants of war the second week of September in Amman, Jordan, under the banner Fostering Partnerships. [Insert information on the results of the Conference]

72. In the Maputo Action Plan, the States Parties indicated that “States Parties in a position to provide assistance will support plans and programmes that are informed by relevant and accurate information on contamination and the socio-economic impact of antipersonnel mines – including information which is collected from affected women, girls, boys and men, and is analysed from a gender perspective – and that promote and encourage gender mainstreaming”
73. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties continue to highlight the importance of well drafted national mine action strategies and work plans, with concrete and costed milestones and road maps towards completion, developed through an inclusive process with all stakeholders (mine action organization, government ministries, donors, civil society) taking into account gender and age in the setting of methodologies and priorities and ensuring that they are regularly updated. This is important not only for the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention but also to foster cooperation and assistance. Since the Maputo Review Conference a number of States Parties such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe have launched and/or reviewed National Strategies for implementation of their commitments under the Convention with the support of national and international partners.
74. In recognition of the pivotal role of mine action in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, since the Maputo Review Conference, States Parties agreed to continue promoting the inclusion of mine action activities into ongoing development programmes, and to promote the identification of mine action as a priority in local, national and international development actions, in cooperation with regional and international organisations and international financial institutions. Since the Third Review Conference efforts have been carried out to raise of awareness of the relevance of mine action to other sectors in particular given the role of mine clearance in facilitating humanitarian interventions and development activities and the role of victim assistance in supporting human and disability rights.
75. With respect to enhancing international cooperation and assistance as concerns victim assistance, States Parties continue to recognise that guaranteeing the rights and addressing the needs of mine victims requires a long term commitment and that this involves sustained political, financial and material commitments, both made by affected States themselves and through international cooperation and assistance, in accordance with Article 6 obligations. The actions in the Maputo Action Plan’s cooperation and assistance section relate specifically to assisting the victims indicating that “all States Parties in a position to do so will effectively use all possible avenues to support States Parties seeking to receive assistance in mine clearance; mine risk education; stockpile destruction; adopting appropriate national implementation measures; as well as meeting victims’ needs and

guaranteeing their rights. As concerns victim assistance, this includes providing targeted assistance and supporting broader efforts to enhance frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction.”

76. In the Maputo Action Plan it was agreed that “all States Parties will develop and promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including through South-South cooperation and by sharing national experiences and good practices, resources, technology and expertise to implement the Convention.” Since the Maputo Review Conference, a number of exchange visits to share expertise and other cooperation efforts between mine-affected States Parties have taken place. These exchanges between States implementing Article 5 can contribute to the efficient implementation of the Convention as they have often involved a State visiting another State with similar terrain and facing similar challenges to learn about survey and clearance methodologies and best practices.
77. In addition to this, since the Maputo Review Conference in some cases mine clearance has been carried out jointly between States that share a common border. In this regard, the implementation of Article 5 contributes to security and confidence building measures between States Parties. Furthermore, mine clearance has also been considered as a component of peace agreements which highlights the importance of mine clearance to support peace efforts.

[INSERT EFFORTS MADE BY STATES PARTIES IN SOUTH SOUTH COOPERATION]

78. Since the Third Review Conference, initiatives, such as the individualised approach supported by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Convention, the inclusive development of strategies, the strengthening of in-country partnerships have supported the implementation of this action of the Maputo Action Plan. Likewise, a number of national, regional and international seminars and field visits have been held to allow participants to learn about new approaches to implementation of the Convention in other States Parties. These exchanges continue to be a crucial part of Cooperation and Assistance and the successful implementation of the Convention.
79. While a number of efforts have been carried out to foster cooperation and assistance, it is evident that efforts must continue in-country and at the international level to ensure that cooperation and assistance can be channelled in a way that would ensure significant progress towards the 2025 aspirations of the States Parties. This will require a more coordinated effort by States in a position to provide assistance to support States Parties that have demonstrated a high level of national ownership, as defined by the States Parties, and have put forth clear plans to address their remaining challenge. As highlighted in the Action, this support should be provided in a way that the partnership includes clear responsibilities with member being accountable to one another, includes measurable targets and a regular dialogue and that the commitment is on a multi-year basis.

VII. Measures to ensure compliance

80. The States Parties had previously acknowledged that the primary responsibility for ensuring compliance rests with each individual State Party and that article 9 of the Convention accordingly requires each State Party to take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress prohibited activities by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control.

81. The Maputo Action Plan commits each State Party that has not yet done so to, “as soon as possible and no later than by the Fourth Review Conference, take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to prevent and suppress any activity that is prohibited the Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control..”
82. At the close of the Maputo Review Conference, there were 59 States Parties that had reported that they had adopted legislation in the context of article 9 obligations and that there were 33 States Parties that had reported that they considered existing national laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention. The remaining 64 States Parties, i.e. almost 40 percent of States Parties, had not yet reported having either adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations or that they considered existing laws were sufficient to give effect to the Convention. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the following additional States Parties have reported that they have established legislation in accordance with Article 9 or that existing laws were sufficient to give effect to the Convention [INSERT NAMES OF STATES]. There are now **72** States Parties that have reported that they have adopted legislation in the context of article 9 obligations, and **37** States Parties that had reported that they consider existing national laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention. The remaining **55** States Parties have not yet reported having either adopted legislation in the context of article 9 obligations or that they considered existing laws were sufficient to give effect to the Convention. Since the Review Conference the subsequent Presidents of the Convention have communicated with these States to draw their attention to this outstanding obligation and encourage reporting on this matter as soon as possible. States Parties should address this matter ahead of the Fourth Review Conference in line with the Maputo Action Plan.
83. In the Maputo Action Plan it was agreed that all States Parties with, alleged or known non-compliance with the Convention’s prohibitions, “will provide information on the situation to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible and work together with other States Parties in a spirit of cooperation to resolve the matter in an expeditious and effective manner, in accordance with Article 8.” Since the Maputo Review Conference, States Parties have emphasised the importance of continuing to condemn the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor to ensure that the stigmatization of anti-personnel mines remains.
84. At the Maputo Review Conference the Committee on Cooperative Compliance was established to address matters concerning compliance with Article 1.1 and to consider any follow-up that might be appropriate for States Parties to better understand the situation and to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance in a supportive and amicable manner. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance has continued its engagement with allegations of non-compliance with Article 1.1 which have surfaced in South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen. The Committee has regularly requested these States Parties provide updates on their investigations and on national circumstances preventing investigations, as well as on their engagement in the work of the Convention by taking the floor during informal and formal meeting of the Convention. In this regard, the Committee has welcomed the continuous engagement of these States. One State Party – South Sudan – have carried out and investigated the allegations, which was welcomed by the Committee. The Committee therefore recommended to the States Parties to no longer pursue the allegations at this time.
85. Likewise, since the Maputo Review Conference the Committee on Cooperative Compliance has established its internal working methods which include a continuous and open discussion with civil society concerning cases of alleged use of mines. In this regard, the Committed has continuously

met with Human Rights Watch and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines to discuss allegation of use of mines.

86. While the cases of compliance by a State Party with Article 1.1 of the Convention are rare, the States Parties need to remain vigilant to ensure that the norms of the Convention are upheld by all.

VIII. Transparency and the exchange of information

87. At the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties recognized that transparency and the open exchange of information, through both formal mechanisms under the Convention and other informal means, are essential to achieving the Convention's aims. The States Parties also recognised that dialogue informed by accurate and high quality information can support cooperation and assistance and accelerate the Convention's implementation.

88. The States Parties have recalled that the submission of Article 7 transparency reports is an obligation for all States Parties, this is particularly important for States Parties in the process of destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4, for those States Parties in the process of clearing mined areas in accordance with Article 5, for those States Parties that are retaining anti-personnel mines for purposes permitted by Article 3 and for those that are in the process of implementing Article 9.

89. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties the States Parties have adopted a Guide to Reporting⁴ to support the reporting efforts of the States Parties and improve the quantity and quality of reporting. Since the establishment of the Guide to Reporting, improvements in the quality of reports have been seen in those States that have employed the Guide. The States Parties have reemphasized the benefits that could be obtained in applying the "Guide to reporting" and encouraged its use by the States Parties in implementing their article 7 obligations.⁵ In 2019, concerning mine clearance, 11 of the 18 States Parties that submitted reports employed the Guide to Reporting, this was welcomed by the Committee. The Committees on mine clearance and victim assistance of the Convention have continue encouraging States to employ the Guide to Reporting to ensure clarity on the status of implementation.

90. On 18 February 2016, the Committee on Victim Assistance convened an *Informal Discussion on Reporting on Victim Assistance Commitments under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*. Observing that reporting on victim assistance commitments under the Maputo Action Plan may be complex, the Committee sought to offer a platform for States Parties to discuss challenges faced by them in responding to the call for information on implementation of Actions 12-14 of the Maputo Action Plan and opportunities to overcome these challenges. At the meeting, the Committee also noted a call from States Parties to consider simplifying victim assistance reporting methods across relevant disarmament conventions.

91. As a result of consultation the Committee on Victim Assistance developed Guidance on Victim

⁴ Guide to Reporting: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/14MSP/14MSP-Guide-to-Reporting-30Oct2015.pdf>

⁵ Final Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties
https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Final_Report_Fifteenth_Meeting_of_the_States_Parites_-_English.pdf

Assistance Reporting which aims to support States Parties in providing comprehensive information on progress in implementing their victim assistance commitments as well as highlighting the synergies of reporting with different international instruments concerning victims of exploded ordnance, disability and human rights. Since the Maputo Review Conference, a little less than half of the relevant States Parties have submitted comprehensive reports on victim assistance in other cases the information provided is such that an assessment of progress is not possible.

92. At the Maputo Review Conference, it was agreed that all States Parties will provide high quality and updated information annually, as required by the Convention, and provide additional information in a voluntary manner. At the close of the Maputo Review Conference, all 161 States Parties that had ratified or acceded to the Convention and had been required to submit initial transparency information in accordance with Article 7 paragraph 1 of the Convention had done so to the exception of Oman and Tuvalu. Since the Maputo Review Conference, Oman submitted its initial transparency report, as did two additional States that acceded to the Convention – State of Palestine and Sri Lanka. Thus, all States but Tuvalu submitted an initial transparency report as required.
93. At the Maputo Review Conference, it was also agreed that “those States Parties without implementation obligations will make use of the simplified tools for fulfilling their Article 7 obligations” and that where applicable, those “States Parties without implementation obligations will make use of the simplified tools for fulfilling their Article 7 obligations.” In 2019, each State Party obliged to provide updated information did so with the exception of the following [INSERT NUMBER] States Parties: [INSERT NAMES OF STATES].
94. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the overall reporting rate has been below 50 percent in 2017, 2018 and 2019. However, among mine affected countries implementing core obligations of the Convention, reporting rates have increased. The States Parties have noted that improvements can be made in this regard and that an online tool reporting option as proposed by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance may be helpful in both supporting the quantity and the quality of reports by simplifying the submission of reports and integrating relevant guidance in the information to be submitted.
95. Since the Third Review Conference greater attention has been given by the States Parties to the importance of ensuring the collection of disaggregated data by sex and age and ensuring that the data is employed to inform programming in all areas of implementation. In the majority of cases States Parties submitting reports under Article 7 have submitted information disaggregated by gender and age, in particular when it comes to mine victims and mine risk education beneficiaries. This is essential in order to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. While this approach in many areas is standard practice, improvements can be made.
96. While the collection of disaggregated data by sex and age is important, it is key that the data is analysed and considered in the development of operational mine action plans. Doing so will help ensure that effective support is provided to mine victims and communities by setting better priorities ensuring a wider positive socio-economic impact.
97. Since the Maputo Review Conference, States Parties agreed that renewed attention will need to be given to the ongoing fulfilment of transparency obligations. In addition, following the Fourth Review Conference, effective informal exchanges of information would be equally crucial. The Committees

of the Convention have all indicated the importance of transparency and the exchange of information for the fulfilment of their mandates. The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance has focused part of its work on improving transparency and exchange of information.

98. [INSERT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD]

IX. Implementation support

Implementation Support Unit

99. At the Maputo Review Conference the States Parties agreed that all States Parties in a position to do so will provide necessary financial resources for the effective operation of the Implementation Support Unit and take responsibility for the mechanisms they have established. A record of the contributions received by the ISU in support of its annual work plans can be found in Annex INSERT NUMBER.

100. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties the States Parties adopted a number of measures including a four-year work plan (2016-2019) which distinguishes between basic expenditures and enhanced support and sets out the activities required to meet the objectives of the Maputo Plan of Action, an annual budget and a financial security buffer to strengthen the financial governance and transparency within the ISU and to increase predictability, accountability and ownership by States Parties of the work of the ISU. In addition, States Parties agreed on the job description and the selection procedure for the recruitment of a new ISU Director, as well as a set of principles for future ISU recruitments. Some of the important measures taken include the following:

101. [INSERT KEY DECISIONS TAKEN ON THE ISU AND CHANGES SINCE THE REVIEW CONFERENCE]

102. The ISU continues to report thoroughly, regularly and in accordance with the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” as well as with other decisions of the States Parties.

Meetings of the States Parties

103. Article 11 of the Convention states that “the States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention (...)” and that Meetings of the States Parties subsequent to the First Meeting of the States Parties will be convened annually until the First Review Conference. At the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties agreed to hold annually, until the Fourth Review Conference, a Meeting of the States Parties. The Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties was held in Geneva from 30 November to 4 December 2015 and presided over by H.E. Bertrand de Crombrugghe of Belgium Ambassador of Belgium to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties was held in Santiago, Chile, from 28 November to 1 December 2016 and presided over by H.E. Marta Mauras, Ambassador of Chile to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties was held in Vienna, Austria from 18-20 December 2017 and presided over by H.E. Thomas Hajnoczi, Ambassador of Austria to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties was held in Geneva from 26-30 November 2018 and presided over by H.E. Suraya Dalil, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

104. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties have continued to make use of the Meetings of the States Parties as mechanisms to advance implementation of the Convention. At each Meeting, the States Parties considered final conclusions on specific areas of implementation prepared by the President, the Committee on the Implementation of Article 5, the Committee on Victim Assistance, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. These reports measured progress made by States Parties in the pursuit of the Convention's core aims between Meetings of the States Parties, supported the application of the Maputo Action Plan and highlighted priority areas of work for the States Parties, the Committees and the President in the periods between Meetings of the States Parties. In addition, programmes for the Meetings of the States Parties provided an opportunity for States Parties implementing key provisions of the Convention to provide updates in fulfilling their obligations. As well, at various Meetings of the States Parties, as noted elsewhere in this review, the States Parties took decisions to enhance the effort to implement and ensure compliance with the Convention.

105. [INSERT THEMATIC PANEL DISCUSSIONS]

106. [CHALLENGES REGARDING FINANCES AND MEASURES TAKEN]

Intersessional Work Programme

107. Since the Maputo Review Conference the States Parties have continued to hold intersessional meetings between Meetings of the States Parties. With the focus having been placed on a more tailored approach to implementation by individual states and Committees valuing more and more direct interaction with individual States, several Committees have taken advantage of the intersessional meetings as well as the day prior to the intersessional meetings to hold bilateral meetings to take full advantage of the presence of National mine action directors in Geneva.

108. Since the Maputo Review Conference the intersessional meetings have continued to prove a valuable informal forum to exchange information on progress made and remaining challenges and to discuss matters related with the implementation of the Convention. Since the Maputo Review Conference the Chair of the intersessional meetings have opted to hold a thematic panel to address pertinent issues related to the Convention [INSERT THEMATIC DISCUSSION].

109. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the GICHD continued to host, and Switzerland continued to provide financial support, through the GICHD for, the intersessional meetings, thus ensuring that there was no cost to the States Parties associated with the organization of intersessional meetings.

Coordinating Committee

110. At the Maputo Review Conference, the States Parties highlighted the important role of the Coordinating Committee in coordinating the work flowing from and related to formal and informal meetings of the States Parties. Since the Maputo Review Conference the Coordinating Committee met up to eight-ten times per year to fulfil its mandate to coordinate matters relating to and flowing from the work of the intersessional meetings with the work of the Convention's formal meetings. Throughout this period, the Coordinating Committee maintained its historic practice of involving, in its work, the ICBL, the ICRC, the United Nations as represented by the United Nations Office for

Disarmament Affairs, the GICHD, the President-Designate and the Coordinator of the informal Sponsorship Programme.

Sponsorship Programme

111. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the Sponsorship Programme, which for the last decade has been coordinated by Australia, continued to permit widespread representation at meetings of the Convention, particularly by mine-affected developing States Parties. The States Parties have continued to recognize the importance of the Sponsorship Programme to ensure broad participation from representatives of States Parties that may not be in a position to participate without sponsorship support.
112. During each year from 2014 - 2018, the informal Sponsorship Programme supported the participation of an average of [x] delegates representing an average of [X] States at each set of intersessional meetings or to each Meeting of the States Parties. While sponsorship funding has continued to decrease over the years, with steady support from a few States Parties it has been able to support a few delegates. The States Parties have recognized the importance of the Sponsorship Programme to the work of the Convention.
113. Since the Maputo Review Conference, the sponsorship programme has encouraged States Parties to consider gender and diversity in the composition of their delegations. However a great majority of the persons sponsored have been male despite the call made by the sponsorship programme which is a reflection has encouraged states and international and non-governmental organizations to consider such action points both in terms of the composition of their delegations with a view to gender balance, including speaking roles, as well as in the preparation and delivery of updates on their implementation effort including by reflecting on gender and diversity and mine action in statements, and, where possible, including age- and sex-disaggregated data in presentations.

Participation of other actors

114. The States Parties continued to recognize and further encourage the full participation in and contribution to the implementation of the Convention by the ICBL, ICRC, national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their International Federation, the UN, the GICHD, international and regional organizations, mine survivors and their organizations, mine action operators and other civil society organizations such as mine action operators. The States Parties again benefited greatly from the sense of partnership that exists on the part of the wide range of actors that have committed to working together to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Convention.
115. Since the Maputo Review Conference, with a more individual country focused approach of the Convention, the importance of increased interaction in the work of the Convention of actors supporting States in implementing their commitments in-country, including mine clearance operators and organizations involved in supporting and promoting the rights of mine victims and persons with disabilities has been emphasized. This will be an essential element of the Convention