

Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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Review of the operation and status of the Convention**Other matters essential for achieving the aims of the Convention****Cooperation and assistance**

Sample model for a National Mine Action Platform (NMAP)

Submitted by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance (Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom)

Introduction

1. At the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the States Parties adopted the Maputo +15 Declaration in which they agreed to intensify efforts to complete the Convention's respective time-bound obligations and to do so to the fullest extent possible by 2025. The Maputo Action Plan and the Convention's machinery established at the Third Review Conference aimed for a more country-focused approach to implementation and to support the ambitions of the States Parties as expressed in the Maputo +15 Declaration.

2. The Maputo Action Plan contains a number of actions related to cooperation and assistance. A more country-focused approach is captured by Action 21 of the Maputo Action Plan which indicates 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."

3. To support the implementation of this Action, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance ("the Committee") established the Individualised Approach providing a platform for dialogue on the status and challenges faced by States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention, in particular implementation of Article 5. In 2019, the Committee initiated a review of the Individualised Approach through a dialogue with States that participated in the Individualised Approach as well as with relevant organisations.

4. One of the main findings of the Committee was that, while the Individualised Approach provides a very useful opportunity for States Parties to initiate a dialogue concerning the remaining challenge and requirements for support with States and organisations in a position to provide assistance, this cannot replace a national-level dialogue which could be complemented by an in-country platform to enable a regular dialogue on implementation and challenges between stakeholders at a national level.

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5. While in many cases States have such national platforms in place, in other cases these platforms are absent or could be strengthened to maximize opportunities to foster long term partnerships and a sense of common ownership amongst all stakeholders. This brief paper lays out an example of a possible format for a voluntary national mine action platform for States that do not already have a platform for dialogues on mine action.

Objectives of the National Mine Action Platform

6. The States Parties have agreed that while each State Party is responsible for implementation of the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, the Convention's shared goals can be advanced through enhanced cooperation.¹ The States Parties also understand the starting point to ensure effective cooperation and assistance is national ownership.

7. A National Mine Action Platform (NMAP) would provide a platform for stakeholders in-country to discuss the status and challenges in the implementation of the obligations of the Convention on a regular basis (e.g. quarterly). These meetings are not intended to replace coordination structures or the series of technical meetings that are otherwise necessary for the successful implementation of the Convention. An NMAP is a nationally owned and led forum of stakeholders from various disciplines that advocates for mine action at different levels and allows for concerted action through a coordinated and participatory process.

8. The goal of the NMAP is to ensure an inclusive approach to the implementation of the Convention by meeting the following objectives:

- facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination through a consultative and participatory process;
- providing a platform among stakeholders for honest, open and transparent discussions on challenges or obstacles to implementation to encourage collective problem solving;
- fostering an enabling environment for the conduct of mine action through advocacy and awareness-raising on the remaining challenges and plans for implementation as well as the importance of integrating mine action into development policies, planning and programmes;
- providing a forum for national consultations and consensus building, priority identification and policy formulation, implementation and monitoring of activities and identification of needs and challenges with an emphasis on ensuring progress toward the State's respective deadlines as soon as possible.

Composition of the National Mine Action Platforms

9. There is no set formula for the composition of a NMAP. The participation and buy-in of different actors from, for example, government ministries, donors, international and non-governmental organizations, Private Sector, and the United Nations organisations could be facilitated (where applicable).

10. While there is no one-size-fits all approach, the NMAP could be established by a tripartite approach with the National Mine Action Authority/National Mine Action Centre necessarily taking the lead in facilitating the work of the NMAP, a "champion donor" country (permanent or rotating) and a third in-country entity (e.g. UNDP) which would carry out the role of a "secretariat" and/or neutral "facilitator" including, for example, the taking and circulation of minutes and action points or/and the convening of stakeholders on behalf of the National Authority/National mine Action Centre. However, deciding on its composition in an inclusive manner could ensure that the structure emplaced has the buy-in necessary for its success.

¹ Maputo Action Plan

11. To meet its objectives, the NMAP may aim to ensure a political, technical, participatory and resource mobilization components:

- a political component to ensure strong political commitment from the national authorities;
- a technical component to discuss technical challenges faced including in areas such as: data management, methodologies, standard operating procedure, national mine action standards, tasking, prioritization etc.;
- a participatory component ensuring the inclusions of all relevant groups, including government bodies, international and national non-governmental organisations, donors, and representatives of affected populations; the private sector, and academic institutions;
- a resource mobilization component to ensure resources required for developing the NMAP and carrying out the mine action programmes planned tasks.

12. The members of the NMAP can decide on the activities of the NMAP which may be, but are not limited to, the following:

- identifying trends, gaps, concerns and challenges and setting priorities and looking for opportunities to mobilize necessary resources;
- advocating the urgent need for developing or adopting policies, legislation and standards;
- benchmarking progress made on remaining challenges and steps for improving implementation and its mainstreaming into development policies, planning and programmes;
- contributing to the development of work plans and raising public awareness;
- improvising dialogue and coordinating joint efforts among members of the NMAP to more effectively carry out operations;
- documenting lessons learned and good practices, and sharing the findings at national, regional and international levels.
- Ensuring the implementation of international commitments under the Convention and associated action plans.

13. It is suggested that the discussion focus around a particular objective of the Convention such as ensuring implementation of Article 5, to allow for more productive discussions and ensure that the right people are in the room and remain engaged in discussions.
