
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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Final document

The Final document of the 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 consists of the following:

- Part I. Organization and Work of the Fourth Review Conference
- A. Introduction
 - B. Organization of the Fourth Review Conference
 - C. Participation in the Fourth Review Conference
 - D. Work of the Fourth Review Conference
 - E. Decisions and Recommendations
 - F. Documentation
 - G. Adoption of the final document and closure of the Fourth Review Conference

Annex

List of documents


- Part II¹. Texts adopted by the Conference:
- Oslo declaration
 - Oslo Action Plan
 - Review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 2014-2019

¹ Part II is issued as document APLC/CONF/2019/5/Add.1.

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Part I

Organization and work of the Fourth Review Conference

A. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction states in Article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2, that “a Review Conference shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations five years after the entry into force of this Convention” and that “further Review Conferences shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations if so requested by one or more States Parties.”

2. At the First Review Conference (Nairobi, 29 November - 3 December 2004) the States Parties agreed to hold annually, until the Second Review Conference, a Meeting of the States Parties and informal intersessional meetings of the Standing Committees, and that a Second Review Conference will take place in the second half of 2009 (document APLC/CONF/2004/5, Part V, paragraph 2 (a-d)). At the Second Review Conference (Cartagena, 30 November - 4 December 2009) the States Parties decided to hold annually, until a Third Review Conference, a Meeting of the States Parties and informal intersessional meetings of the Standing Committees, and that a Third Review Conference will take place at the end of 2014 (document APLC/CONF/2009/9, paragraph 29 (i) and (ii)). The Third Review Conference (Maputo, 23 to 27 June 2014) agreed that, beginning in 2015, a Meeting of the States Parties will be convened each year at the end of November or beginning of December until the end of 2018, and that the Fourth Review Conference will be held at the end of 2019 (document APLC/CONF/2014/4, paragraph 31).

3. At the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (Geneva, 26-30 November 2018), the States Parties agreed to hold the Convention’s Fourth Review Conference in Oslo, Norway, the week of 25 to 29 November 2019 and adopted its cost estimates. The Meeting further decided to hold preparatory meetings in advance of the Fourth Review Conference in Geneva on 24 May 2019 and on 18 September 2019 (APLC/MSP.17/2018/12, paragraph 48). In addition, the States Parties agreed to elect Ambassador Hans Brattskar, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office in Geneva, President of the Fourth Review Conference.

4. To prepare for the Fourth Review Conference, in accordance with the decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, the First Preparatory Meeting was held on 24 May 2019. The First Preparatory Meeting took note of the Concept note on Fourth Review Conference substantive documents submitted by the President and expressed general satisfaction that its content would provide useful direction to the efforts to develop the review of the general status and operation of the Convention, an Oslo Action Plan, and a political declaration. The Meeting considered and approved the Draft Agenda for the Fourth Review Conference and confirmed the Rules of Procedure, as contained in APLC/CONF/2009/3. In keeping with the practice used previously in formal meetings, the Meeting recommended that the outgoing members of the Convention’s Committees should serve as Vice Presidents of the Fourth Review Conference, namely: Belgium, Colombia, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Thailand and Zambia.

5. The Second Preparatory Meeting was held on 18 September 2019. The Second Preparatory Meeting considered and approved the updated draft Agenda for the Fourth Review Conference and the provisional programme of work of the Conference and recommended them for adoption by the Fourth Review Conference. The Meeting took note of and expressed general satisfaction with the documents submitted in preparation for the Fourth Review Conference, as well as of the status of preparation of the Implementation

Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024. The Meeting called upon the States Parties and States not party participating in the Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences to the Convention to ensure prompt and full payment of their respective assessed contributions and compliance with their obligations pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention. The Meeting also took note of the proposed dates for 2020 intersessional meetings and the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, as well as of the proposal by the President for the Convention's Committees membership and recommended them for adoption by the Fourth Review Conference.

6. As a complement to the formal preparations for the Oslo Review Conference, thematic discussions were held on 23 May 2019 to inform and provide impetus towards the development of the Oslo Action Plan.

7. The formal proceedings of the Fourth Review Conference were preceded, on 25 November 2019, by an opening ceremony which featured HRH Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Ine Eriksen Søreide, the Minister of Development of Norway, Dag-Inge Ulstein, the Mayor of Oslo, Marianne Borgen, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, who conveyed a message from United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Gilles Carbonnier, UNICEF Special Adviser, Geert Cappelaere, the Convention's Special Envoys HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium and HRH Prince Mired of Jordan, Selma Guso from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Alex Munyambabazi from Uganda representing landmine survivors, and Fay Wildhagen, artist.

B. Organization of the Fourth Review Conference

8. The Fourth Review Conference was opened on 26 November 2019 by Ambassador Hans Brattskar, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office in Geneva, President of the Fourth Review Conference.

9. At its first plenary meeting on 26 November 2019, the Fourth Review Conference adopted its agenda, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/1, and its programme of work, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/2. On the same occasion, the Fourth Review Conference approved the participation in its work as observers of organizations that have been granted observer status by the Coordinating Committee under rule 1.4 of the Rules of Procedure.

10. Also at its first plenary meeting, Belgium, Colombia, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Thailand and Zambia were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Fourth Review Conference.

11. The Fourth Review Conference unanimously confirmed the nomination of Ingrid Schøyen, Senior Adviser, Humanitarian Affairs Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, as Secretary-General of the Conference. The Conference also took note of the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General of Peter Kolarov of the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, as Executive Secretary of the Conference, and the appointment by the President of Juan Carlos Ruan, Director of the Implementation Support Unit, as the President's Executive Coordinator.

C. Participation in the Fourth Review Conference

12. The following States Parties participated in the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

13. The following States participated in the Conference as observers, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 3, of the Convention and Rule 1, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Conference: China, Egypt, India, Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lebanon, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, and Viet Nam.

14. The following international organizations and institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations attended the Conference as observers in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 3, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the rules of procedure: ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), European Union (EU), Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Implementation Support Unit for the Convention on Cluster Munitions, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Organization of American States (OAS), Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Office for Projects Services (UNOPS), and United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU).

15. The following other organizations attended the Conference as observers in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 3, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure: Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions post-confliktuelles de Déminage et de Dépollution - Benin, Centre for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR), EveryCasualty Worldwide, Fondation Suisse de déminage, The Halo Trust, Information Management and Mine Action Programmes (iMMAP), International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Rehabilitation science organization (ReSciO), Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation, Conflict and Environment Observatory.

16. A list of all delegations to the Fourth Review Conference is contained in document APLC/CONF/2019/INF.1.

D. Work of the Fourth Review Conference

17. The Fourth Review Conference held eight plenary meetings from 26 to 29 November 2019. During its first and third to fifth plenary meetings, the Conference reviewed the operation and status of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention's goals and in the application of the Maputo Action Plan 2015-2019 and the Maputo+15 Declaration.

18. At its second plenary meeting, the States Parties that had submitted requests for extensions in accordance with Article 5 (4) of the Convention, Argentina, Cambodia, Chad, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Tajikistan, and Yemen, presented their requests, the executive summaries

of which are contained in documents APLC/CONF/2019/WP.1, APLC/CONF/2019/WP.2, APLC/CONF/2019/WP.3, APLC/CONF/2019/WP.4, APLC/CONF/2019/WP.27, APLC/CONF/2019/WP.5, and APLC/CONF/2019/WP.7, respectively. In addition, the Netherlands, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation presented the Committee's analysis of the requests, as contained in documents APLC/CONF/2019/WP.16, APLC/CONF/2019/WP.12, APLC/CONF/2019/WP.15, APLC/CONF/2019/WP.26, APLC/CONF/2019/WP.9, and APLC/CONF/2019/WP.8, respectively, as well as observations on one request, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.28.

19. Also in the context of the consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Conference discussed progress made and challenges that remain in the implementation of the Convention and considered, in particular, document APLC/CONF/2019/3 titled "Status of implementation of the Convention by States Parties with outstanding obligations". Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organizations.

20. In the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Conference considered the Draft Oslo Declaration on a Mine-Free World 2019, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.10, the Draft Oslo Action Plan, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.14, and the Draft review of the operation and status of the Convention, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.18 to APLC/CONF/2019/WP.21.

21. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, recalling the "Directive from the States Parties to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)", which instructed the ISU to propose and present a work plan and budget for the activities of the ISU for the following year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to each Meeting of the States Parties for approval, the Conference considered the "Implementation Support Unit 2020 Work Plan and Budget", presented by the Director of the ISU and endorsed by the Coordinating Committee, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.25.

22. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, in recalling the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU", which tasked the ISU to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties and to submit an audited annual financial report for the previous year and a preliminary annual financial report for the present year to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties, the Conference considered "Activities, functioning and finances of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit" presented by the Director of the ISU, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.24.

23. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Conference considered "Reflections on the Convention's meeting programme and machinery", submitted by the President, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.11.

24. The discussion on the operation and status of the Convention, was also informed by a paper submitted by ICRC on "Views and recommendations on improvised explosive devices falling within the scope of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention", as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.23.

25. At its sixth plenary meeting, in the context of its consideration of the financial status of assessed contributions pursuant to Article 14, the Conference considered "Financial predictability and sustainability of United Nations assessed contributions. Report and recommendations", submitted by the President, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.17.

26. Also at its sixth plenary meeting, in the context of its consideration of the 2020-2024 five-year work plan and budget of the Implementation Support Unit and recalling the decision on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU” adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties as well as the “Implementation Support Unit Four-Year Work Plan 2016 Midterm Review” approved by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Conference considered the “Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024”, submitted by the President, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.22.

27. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ relevant decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting commended the Norwegian presidency for organising, on 26 February 2019, a successful pledging conference for the implementation of the Convention.

E. Decisions and Recommendations

28. The Conference reaffirmed the determination of the States Parties to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines and their aspiration to meet the goals of the Convention to the fullest extent possible by 2025, and adopted the Oslo Declaration on a Mine-Free World, which is contained in part II of this report.²

29. The Conference condemned the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor and, with the aim of supporting enhanced implementation and universalization of the Convention, adopted the Oslo Action Plan 2020-2024, which is contained in part II of this report.

30. The Conference took stock of the current status of implementation of the Convention, the progress made since the Third Review Conference (Maputo, 2014) in meeting the purpose and objectives of the Convention and the 2025 aspirational goal set by the States Parties, as well as the remaining challenges to reach a mine-free world and adopted the “Review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 2014-2019”, which is contained in part II of this report.

31. In the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Conference took note of the status of universalization of the Convention and called upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

32. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Conference welcomed the update on the progress provided by Greece and its compliance with the Maputo Action Plan, and the report on the “Status of implementation of the convention by States Parties with outstanding obligations”, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/3, and took note of the information contained therein. The Meeting appealed to the States Parties which are in non-compliance with their Article 4 obligations to intensify efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.

33. Taking into account the analyses presented by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, of the requests submitted under Article 5 of the Convention and the requests themselves, the Conference took the following decisions:

Decision on the request submitted by Argentina for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

² APLC/CONF/2019/5/Add.1.

(i) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Argentina for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 (1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2023.

(ii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that, as in its initial request for extension of its 1 March 2010 deadline, Argentina has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes the ability of Argentina to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that Argentina has indicated that it “does not exercise territorial control over the land to be demined.” The Conference further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas, when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.

Decision on the request submitted by Cambodia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

(i) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Cambodia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 (1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2025.

(ii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Cambodia had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made to complete implementation by its deadline in 2020, as recorded in the decisions of the Second Review Conference, and while it is unfortunate that after almost two decades of intensive humanitarian demining efforts Cambodia does not have a precise definition of its remaining contamination, Cambodia has made commendable progress and has committed to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.

(iii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that Cambodia was projecting that it would need approximately five years and eleven months from the date of submission of its request to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Conference, in recalling that the implementation of Cambodia’s national demining plan may be affected by pending survey and the agreement on work plans to address anti-personnel mines in un-demarcated border areas, requested that Cambodia submit to the States Parties, by 15 August 2022 and 30 April 2024, an updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget.

(iv) Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that both Cambodia and all States Parties would benefit if Cambodia’s national demining plan incorporated its intentions concerning mined areas it has reported along the Cambodia - Thailand border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along that border. The Conference noted the importance of Cambodia keeping the States Parties informed by reporting on information on and plans to deal with mined areas along Cambodia’s common border with Thailand.

(v) In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Cambodia ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied by all those involved for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention, including in ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed.

(vi) The Conference further encouraged Cambodia to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques, which could lead to Cambodia fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Cambodia in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Cambodia in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.

(vii) The Conference noted the importance of Cambodia continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared. The Conference further noted the importance of Cambodia reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas.

(viii) Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that, while the plan presented by Cambodia is ambitious but workable, and lends itself well to be monitored, its success is contingent upon the results of ongoing survey efforts, negotiations to address un-demarcated border areas, the expansion of the demining capacity, and significant co-contribution from the State budget and stable international funding. In this regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Cambodia informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:

(a) Annual progress and results of baseline survey activities in the remaining 73 districts, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS and their impact on annual targets as given in Cambodia's work plan;

(b) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Cambodia's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS and their impact on annual targets as given in Cambodia's work plan;

(c) Progress made in implementation of the planned agreement between the Cambodia and Thailand General Border Committee regarding plans to address anti-personnel contamination in border areas;

(d) Updates regarding the deployment of 2,000 deminers by the Cambodian Armed Forces, with respect to gender balance in survey and clearance teams, timeline for recruitment, training and deployment;

(e) Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;

(f) Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available in the Cambodian State Budget and national and international financing received to support implementation efforts;

(g) Updates regarding the structure of Cambodia's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

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

Decision on the request submitted by Chad for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

(i) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Chad for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 (1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 January 2025.

(ii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while it appeared that Chad had made efforts to comply with its commitments, information provided on progress made could be communicated with greater clarity and in an unequivocal manner by reporting in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards, by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared. Likewise, the Conference noted the importance of Chad reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with the IMAS in a manner disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas.

(iii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that, by requesting a five-year extension, Chad was projecting that it would need approximately five years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge and clear confirmed hazardous areas. In granting the request the Conference noted that a detailed annual work plan for survey and a plan for database clean-up was missing. The Conference welcomed Chad's commitment to updating its workplan to include more up-to-date information as well as its efforts to reorganize, strengthen and improve the working environment of the National High Commission for Demining (HCND).

(iv) In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Chad ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention including in ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed. The Conference further encouraged Chad to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques, which could lead to Chad fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Chad in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Chad in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.

(v) The Conference, in recalling that the implementation of Chad's national demining plan may be affected by the results pending survey and the security situation, the Conference requested that Chad submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2022 an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, using terminology consistent with the IMAS, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with by which organisation during the remaining period covered by the request, matched with a revised detailed budget.

(vi) Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that while the plan presented by Chad is ambitious and clearly states which factors could affect implementation, its success is contingent on the result of ongoing clearance efforts and on sizable amount of external funding. In this regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Chad informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:

(a) Annual progress of land release activities, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards, including the identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Chad's work plan;

(b) Updated information on the full range of practical methods used to release land, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems;

(c) Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Chad to support implementation efforts;

(d) Regular updates on changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;

(e) Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;

(f) Updates regarding the structure of Chad's mine action program, in particular the Haut commissariat national de Déminage (or HCND, the mine action authority in Chad), and;

(g) Updates on progress with the database clean up undertaken as part of the PRODECO project (Project to support mine clearance, development, and social protection of vulnerable people in northern and western Chad).

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

Decision on the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

(i) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 (1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2025.

(ii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Ethiopia had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and develop plans accordingly to complete implementation by its deadline in 2020, the Conference welcomed Ethiopia's commitment to reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination, increase its capacity and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.

(iii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that Ethiopia was projecting that it would need approximately five years and six months to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Conference, in recalling that the implementation of Ethiopia's national demining plan may be affected by outcomes of agreements on survey and clearance on its border with Eritrea, pending survey, increased cooperation and partnership with international organizations and mine clearance operators, requested that Ethiopia submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2021 and by the 30 April 2023 updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area that would be

dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget.

(iv) In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Ethiopia ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention including in ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed. The Conference further encouraged Ethiopia to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques, which could lead to Ethiopia fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame and in a more cost-effective manner. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Ethiopia in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Ethiopia in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Conference further noted the importance of Ethiopia continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.

(v) Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that both Ethiopia and all States Parties would benefit if Ethiopia's national demining plan incorporated its intentions concerning mined areas it has reported along the Ethiopian-Eritrean border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along the Ethiopian-Eritrean border. The Conference noted Ethiopia's commitment in keeping the States Parties informed by reporting on information on and plans to deal with mined areas along Ethiopia's common border with Eritrea.

(vi) Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted Ethiopia's interest and plan to contact and collaborate with international partners to support their implementation of Ethiopia's survey and clearance plan within their extension request. The Conference noted that the involvement of national and international non-governmental mine clearance organizations could support Ethiopia in implementing its mine clearance plans in a more efficient manner.

(vii) In granting the request the Conference noted that while the plan presented by Ethiopia is ambitious, but workable, and lends itself well to be monitored, its success is based on significant contributions from the international community and increased cooperation and partnership from international mine action organizations. In this regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Ethiopia reporting annually by 30 April to the States Parties, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Ethiopia's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period, disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared, and their impact on annual targets as given in Ethiopia's work plan;

(b) Updated information on the full range of practical methods used to release land, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems. Together with relevant information on the training of national mine personnel, operators in new methodologies and quality control;

(c) Progress on the agreement of Ethiopia and Eritrea regarding plans to address anti-personnel contamination in border areas, including national institutions involved in the effort, process of the work, and annual milestones;

(d) Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Ethiopia to support implementation efforts;

(e) Updates regarding efforts to collaborate with international and non-governmental organisations to support implementation of the plan within the extension request;

(f) Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

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

Decision on the request submitted by Eritrea for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

(i) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Eritrea for an extension of Eritrea's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5 (1).

(ii) The Conference expressed concern that Eritrea had not acted in accordance with the agreed "process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extensions to Article 5 deadlines", which was established at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. The Conference expressed concern that the late submission of a request by Eritrea did not permit the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to carry out their mandate in full to analyze the request.

(iii) The Conference welcomed Eritrea's commitment to adhere to the process established by the States Parties and submit a request in 2020 in accordance with the process, as indicated in its request, and its positive engagement in this regard. This will permit a cooperative dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.

(iv) The Conference noted that Eritrea had not provided updated information on implementation of its Article 5 obligations since its last extension request was granted by the Third Review Conference and has not complied with the decision of the Third Review Conference. The Conference further noted that the request submitted by Eritrea did not provide sufficient information regarding the status of implementation. The Conference therefore noted that the fact that Eritrea has not submitted updated information on implementation since it submitted its request for extension in 2014 is a matter of serious concern.

(v) The Conference noted that in order to function appropriately, the process of requesting extensions requires them to be submitted by 31 March of the same year as the Conference during which they would be considered takes place in order for an analysis of the request to be prepared and to allow for a cooperative exchange between the requesting State and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to take place. In this context, the Conference noted that Eritrea and the Convention as a whole would benefit from a full extension request process taking place and agreed to grant Eritrea an eleven-month extension until 31 December 2020. The Conference also noted that Eritrea would benefit if it seeks assistance from the Implementation Support Unit in the preparation of their request, including by inviting the ISU for an in-country visit.

(vi) The Conference requested that Eritrea submit a request, in accordance with the established process, by 31 March 2020, for Eritrea and the States Parties to benefit from a cooperative exchange on the request. In this regard, the Conference noted that it would be beneficial if Eritrea's request includes information on:

(a) Progress made in addressing mined areas since Eritrea's extension request was granted by the Third Review Conference in 2014 in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared;

(b) The number, location and size of the remaining mined areas in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas;

(c) Plans to clear or otherwise release these areas including annual survey and clearance milestones;

(d) Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

(vii) The Conference noted the importance of Eritrea keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of implementation of Article 5 at intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.

Decision on the request submitted by Tajikistan for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

(i) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Tajikistan for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5 (1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2025.

(ii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Tajikistan had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made to complete implementation by its deadline in 2020, as recorded in the decisions of the Second Review Conference, and while it is unfortunate that after almost two decades of intensive humanitarian demining efforts Tajikistan does not have a precise definition of its remaining contamination, Tajikistan has made commendable progress and has committed to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.

(iii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that Tajikistan was projecting that it would need approximately five years and eleven months to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Conference, in recalling that the implementation of Tajikistan's national demining plan may be affected by pending survey and agreements on survey and clearance in border areas as well as the feasibility of deploying mechanical assets, requested that Tajikistan submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2021 and by 31 October 2023, a updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget.

(iv) Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that both Tajikistan and all States Parties would benefit if Tajikistan's national demining plan incorporated its intentions

concerning mined areas it has reported along the Tajik-Uzbek border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along the Tajik-Uzbek border. The Conference noted Tajikistan's commitment in keeping the States Parties informed by reporting on information on and plans to deal with mined areas along Tajikistan's common border with Uzbekistan.

(v) In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Tajikistan ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention, including ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed. The Conference further encourage Tajikistan to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques, which could lead to Tajikistan fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Tajikistan in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Tajikistan in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.

(vi) The Conference noted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared. The Conference further noted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to report on its remaining contamination in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas.

(vii) Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that, while the plan presented by Tajikistan is ambitious but lends itself well to be monitored, its success is contingent upon the results of ongoing survey efforts, negotiations to address its border area, the expansion of the demining capacity and significant contribution from the State budget and stable international funding. In this regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Tajikistan informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Tajikistan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared and their impact on annual targets as given in Tajikistan's work plan;

(b) Progress on the agreement between the Governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan regarding survey and clearance of areas on their common border, including information on the national institutions involved in the effort;

(c) Updates regarding the identification, recruitment, training and deployment of an additional 90 deminers and support personnel, including information on the gender and diversity of newly recruited personnel in line with Tajikistan's "Gender and Diversity Mine Action Strategy";

(d) Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available from Tajikistan's state budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts;

(e) Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land, including reporting outcomes concerning the feasibility and deployment of mechanical assets;

(f) Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;

(g) Updates regarding the structure of Tajikistan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

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

Decision on the request submitted by Yemen for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

(i) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Yemen for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 (1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2023.

(ii) In granting the request, the Conference noted the difficult circumstances faced by Yemen in its efforts to implementing the decisions of the Third Review Conference to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination and carry out clearance to fulfil its obligations during the extension period. The Conference further noted Yemen's commitment to strengthen and increase its capacity to address the current contamination and obtain clarity regarding the remaining contamination.

(iii) Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that, by requesting a three-year extension, Yemen was projecting that it would need approximately three years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining contamination, produce a detailed plan and submit a further extension request. The Conference noted that it is positive that Yemen is requesting only the period of time necessary to strengthen its capacity and gather and assess data on contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan.

(iv) In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Yemen's efforts to update its National Mine Action Standards and its standard operating procedures. In this regard, the Conference highlighted the importance of Yemen ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention, including in ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed hazardous area. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Yemen in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Yemen in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Conference further noted the importance of Yemen continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.

(v) Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that, while the plan presented by Yemen is ambitious but workable and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation, its success is contingent upon strengthening of Yemen's capacity, increased security, access, recruitment of additional survey teams and a significant contribution of international funding. In this regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Yemen informing the States Parties, by 30 April, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:

- (a) Progress and results of its mine action emergency response efforts;
- (b) Progress in the establishment of a prioritization system;

- (c) Progress in updating its National Mine Action Standards and Standard Operating Procedures;
- (d) Progress made in strengthening its information management system;
- (e) The outcome of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Yemen's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
- (f) Progress made in addressing mined areas during the extension period disaggregated in accordance with the IMAS by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared;
- (g) Efforts to increase survey and demining capacity, including efforts carried by Yemen to expand partnerships with international non-governmental organizations and commercial companies and the result of these efforts;
- (h) Resources obtained relative to needs expressed in the request, including resources provided by the Government of Yemen itself;
- (i) Progress made in the establishment of YEMAC (Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre) branches in Taiz and Marib;
- (j) Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation, and;
- (k) Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

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

34. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Conference took note of the "Reflections on the Convention's meeting programme and machinery", submitted by the President, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.11. In considering a meeting programme that would best meet the needs of the States Parties during the period following the Fourth Review Conference, the Conference took the following decisions:

- (i) to convene annually, until the Fifth Review Conference, a Meeting of the States Parties for up to five days at the end of November or beginning of December;
- (ii) to hold the Fifth Review Conference at the end of 2024;
- (iii) to continue to include in the agenda of the annual Meetings of the States Parties and the Fifth Review Conference an agenda item on the "Status of the assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention";
- (iv) to continue to hold intersessional meetings annually in Geneva for a minimum of two days of plenary meeting;
- (v) to maintain the informal nature of the intersessional meetings and consider adding on an annual basis, either (a) a thematic segment during the two-day intersessional meetings, or (b) a day of thematic discussions, to allow that topics relevant to the Convention be addressed, including the status of implementation of the Oslo Action Plan. The President of the annual Meeting of the States parties will consider and decide on these options in

consultation with the Coordinating Committee. Further to provisions of the 2011 agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD concerning implementation support for the Convention, the Conference expressed its appreciation for the GICHD's ongoing support for intersessional meetings, which has allowed to ensure the respect for multilingualism at the intersessional meetings.

(vi) to amend the mandate the President of the annual Meetings of the States Parties to include the following:

- (a) take the lead on matters related to the United Nations assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention; and
- (b) propose, if deemed necessary, one or more members of the Coordinating Committee to provide support on any issue of the President's mandate, which may require particular attention, including on financial matters;

(vii) to amend each Committee's mandates to include the following:

- (a) review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments contained in the Oslo Action Plan;
- (b) consider matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work;

(viii) to amend the Committees' working methods to include the following:

- (a) each Committee will appoint a focal point among its members to provide advice on gender mainstreaming and ensure that the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities are taken into account in the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan;
- (b) the Committees will increase and strengthen their coordination, including by examining implementation by States parties in a more holistic manner, and by considering the submission of joint conclusions on the status of implementation of the Convention by States Parties at the Meetings of the States Parties/Review Conferences.

(ix) to amend the mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance to include the following:

- (a) to also address all matters under Article 1.2 of the Convention in cases where a State Party has not submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing relevant obligations each year;
- (b) to support States Parties in their efforts to implement and report on matters contained in Article 9 of the Convention; and
- (c) to encourage the States Parties to submit annual Article 7 reports.

35. The Conference decided:

(a) to hold the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland, during the week of 16 November 2020 and to elect Ambassador Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed of Sudan, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Sudan to the United Nations, Geneva, President of the Eighteenth Meeting;

(b) to hold the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in the Netherlands, in 2021 and to elect Ambassador Robbert Jan Gabriëlse of the Netherlands, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, President of the Nineteenth Meeting;

(c) to hold the 2020 intersessional meetings during the week of 18 May 2020³;

(d) to adopt the estimated costs of the Eighteenth and the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/4.

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

(a) Committee on Victim Assistance: Chile and Italy until the end of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) Sweden and Thailand until the end of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP);

(b) Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Austria and Canada until the end of the 18MSP and Norway and Zambia until the end of the 19MSP;

(c) Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: Turkey and the United Kingdom until the end of the 18MSP and Colombia and Germany until the end of the 19MSP;

(d) Committee on Cooperative Compliance: Iraq and Switzerland until the end of the 18MSP and Panama and Poland until the end of the 19MSP.

37. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Conference approved "Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024", submitted by the President, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.22. The Conference encouraged the States Parties in a position to do so to contribute to the Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024.

38. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, recalling the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU" and the relevant decision by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting approved the "Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2020", as endorsed by the Coordinating Committee and as contained in document APLC/CONF/2019/WP.25. In the context of the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU", the Meeting also approved the "Interim report on the 2019 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit", as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.24, and the ISU's 2018 audited financial statement, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.6.

39. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties' decision on "Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU", the Conference approved the apportionment of the 2018 ISU Trust Fund surplus in a manner that ensures that (a) the financial security buffer contains an amount equivalent to one year of expenditures related to core support as provided for in the ISU yearly budget and that (b) any additional surplus be allocated to implement the 2020 ISU Work Plan.

40. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Conference emphasised the importance of all States Parties reporting updated information annually in accordance with Article 7. The Conference encouraged States Parties to make use of the tools developed to facilitate reporting, including the Guide to Reporting, as well as to seek the support of the Implementation Support Unit in the preparation of their reports.

41. In the context of its consideration of the financial status of assessed contributions pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention, the Conference requested States in arrears to pay outstanding amounts in full at the earliest possible date.

³ Unless more suitable dates can be identified.

42. Also in the context of its consideration of the financial status of assessed contributions pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention, based on the recommendations contained in the document on “Financial predictability and sustainability of United Nations assessed contributions”, submitted by the President, as contained in APLC/CONF/2019/WP.17, the Conference took the following decisions:

- (a) to continue to implement the following measures:
 - (i) a 15% contingency line is included in the cost estimates of the Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences in order to help ensure greater financial predictability and liquidity for the planning and holding of meetings;
 - (ii) monthly reports on the status of financial contributions are issued and posted on the website of the United Nations Office at Geneva and, in addition, are circulated to all States Parties by the Implementation Support Unit;
 - (iii) an agenda item on the “Status of the assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention” is included in all Convention-related meetings.
 - (iv) United Nations Office at Geneva and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) deliver presentations on the status of assessed contributions to inform States on the financial status of the Convention and support them in making informed decisions, including for consideration of cost saving measures in the case of insufficient funding, and to encourage States to pay their dues in compliance with Article 14 as early as possible and well ahead of the three- months deadline.
 - (v) UNODA regularly updates the Convention’s Coordinating Committee on the financial situation.
- (b) the Conference:
 - (i) requests UNODA to continue to distribute monthly updates on the status of assessed contributions with States Parties to further build awareness and encourage timely payment;
 - (ii) requests the United Nations to close the accounts for each financial period within 12 months of the conclusion of that financial period, at which time a final balance will be determined and any credits or debits arising shall be applied to the calculation of the contributions in the next invoice;
 - (iii) requests the United Nations to send individualised digital invoices to States;
 - (iv) requests the United Nations to prepare a multi-year cost-estimate that covers a two-year period for the approval by the States Parties and to issue invoices based on these estimates at least 90 days before the start of the financial period, to encourage early payment and improve the liquidity in the first half of each year;
 - (v) decides that arrears for unpaid contributions should remain the amount of the initial assessment invoiced to the relevant State Party for the year in question, unless expenditures are higher than initial cost estimates. Currently the State Party in arrears receives a final invoice reflecting its share of the actual costs which in the majority of cases is lower than the estimated costs. This effectively rewards a State Party for paying after the end of the financial year.
 - (vi) encourages each State whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years to enter into a payment schedule with the President of the Convention, supported by the United Nations, to permit it to clear outstanding arrears, taking into account its financial circumstances;

(vii) requests States in a position to do so to notify the President at the beginning of the year when they expect their assessed contribution to be paid. The President will keep the UN informed to ensure sound financial planning;

(viii) requests the President, for the purpose of financial planning throughout the year, to contact States that have not paid their assessed contribution by 30 April to ask States in a position to do so to clarify when it will be paid;

43. The Conference reiterated that measures aimed at addressing the financial difficulties deriving from the outstanding assessed contributions pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention should be without prejudice to the principle of multilingualism and should not affect, in particular, the provision of interpretation and translation in all official UN languages at the official meetings of the Convention.

Documentation

44. The Conference strongly encouraged the States Parties to follow, to the furthest extent possible, the 8-4-4 weeks submission pattern for pre-session document for future Meetings.

45. A list of documents submitted to the Fourth Review Conference is contained in the annex to this report. These documents are available in all official languages through the United Nations Official Documents System (<http://documents.un.org>).

F. Adoption of the Final Document and closure of the Fourth Review Conference

46. At its final plenary meeting, on 29 November, the Conference adopted its final document, which is being issued as document APLC/CONF/2019/5. At its closing plenary meeting, the Conference expressed its heartfelt thanks to the Government and people of Norway for their hospitality and outstanding efforts in organizing the Fourth Review Conference.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/CONF/2019/1	Provisional agenda. Submitted by the President
APLC/CONF/2019/2	Provisional programme of work. Submitted by the President
APLC/CONF/2019/3 <i>[English only]</i>	Status of implementation of the convention by States parties with outstanding obligations
APLC/CONF/2019/4 <i>[English only]</i>	Estimated costs for the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction
APLC/CONF/2019/5	Final document
APLC/CONF/2019/5/Add.1	Final document. Addendum
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.1	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Argentina
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.2	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Cambodia
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.3	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Chad
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.4	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Ethiopia
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.5	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Tajikistan
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.6 <i>[English only]</i>	Trust fund ISU APMBC - Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Geneva
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.7	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Yemen
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.8	Analysis of the request submitted by Yemen for an extension of the deadline for completing the

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
	destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the convention
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.9	Analysis of the request submitted by Tajikistan for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the convention
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.10	Draft Oslo Declaration on a mine-free world 2019. Submitted by the President of the Fourth Review Conference
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.11	Reflections on the convention's meeting programme and machinery. Submitted by the President of the Fourth Review Conference
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.12	Analysis of the request submitted by Cambodia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the convention
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.13	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)
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.14	Draft Oslo Action Plan
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.15	Analysis of the request submitted by Chad for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the convention
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.16	Analysis of the request submitted by Argentina for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the convention
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.17	Financial predictability and sustainability of UN assessed contributions. Submitted by the President
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.18	Draft review of the operation and status of the Convention on the prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction: 2014-2019 - introduction, universalizing the convention, destroying stockpiled
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.19	Draft review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction: 2014-2019 - clearing mined areas and assisting the victims
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.20	Draft review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction: 2014-2019

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
	- measures to ensure compliance and measures to ensure compliance
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.21	Draft review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction: 2014-2019 - transparency and the exchange of information and ISU
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.22	Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024. Submitted by the President
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.23 <i>[English only]</i>	Views and recommendations on improvised explosive devices falling within the scope of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.24 <i>[English only]</i>	Activities, functioning and finances of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.25	Implementation Support Unit 2020 Budget and Work Plan
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.26	Analysis of the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.27	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Eritrea
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.28	Observations on the request submitted by Eritrea under article 5 of the convention
APLC/CONF/2019/WP.29/Rev.1 <i>[English only]</i>	How to implement and monitor gender mainstreaming in the APMBC. Practical recommendations. Submitted by Finland, on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Romania, Slovenia, Sudan, Sweden, United Kingdom and Uruguay
APLC/CONF/2019/INF.1 <i>[English, French, Spanish only]</i>	List of Participants
APLC/CONF/2019/MISC.1 <i>[English only]</i>	Explanation of Position on the “State of Palestine”. Submitted by Australia, the Czech Republic, Germany and the Netherlands
APLC/CONF/2019/MISC.2 <i>[English only]</i>	Interpretative Statement of the Delegation of the Holy See to the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention on Anti-Personnel Landmines

**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**

22 January 2020

Original: English

Oslo, 26-29 November 2019

Final document

Addendum


Part II. Texts adopted by the Conference

	<i>Page</i>
Oslo declaration	2
Oslo Action Plan	4
Review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 2014-2019	23

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Oslo declaration

(as adopted at the final plenary meeting on 29 November 2019)

1. We, the 164 States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, having met at the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo in November 2019, express our firm commitment to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. We are proud of the tremendous progress we have made in protecting women, girls, boys and men from the threat and use of anti-personnel mines to date. We now commit to strengthening our efforts in order to achieve our common goals of a mine-free world and the full and equal inclusion of survivors and victims.
2. The norms established by the Convention are strong and we pledge to promote and defend them. We condemn the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor and will continue to spare no effort to universalise the Convention. We base our efforts on the respect for our obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law.
3. Since the entry into force of the Convention 20 years ago, we have destroyed more than 52 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines and 31 of us have completed our mine clearance obligations. We have reduced the risk of further humanitarian harm, we have released vast areas of land to communities for productive use, and we have made progress in ensuring victims and survivors lead dignified lives.
4. The successful implementation of the Convention has been underpinned by a unique spirit of cooperation and transparency, including strong partnerships with international organisations and civil society. We remain committed to continue fostering and strengthening these partnerships to achieve our common goals.
5. While we are proud of our joint achievements, many challenges remain. Contamination by anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature, continues to pose a threat to human life and impede sustainable development.
6. We, the States Parties, are deeply concerned by the rise in the number of casualties caused by anti-personnel mines in recent years. The high number of injuries and deaths is a stark reminder of the continued relevance of the Convention. We will continue and strengthen our efforts to stigmatise and end the use of these weapons banned under the Convention, including new use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, for which all the Convention's provisions apply. We will do our utmost to ensure full and timely implementation of all the Convention's provisions.
7. We are committed to meeting our Convention obligations and clearing all mined areas as soon as possible and will make every effort within our power to increase the speed of survey and clearance over the next five years, taking into consideration the need for innovation in clearance methodology.
8. We will destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines as soon as possible and in line with the deadlines set under the Convention; mindful that each anti-personnel mine destroyed potentially represents a life or limb saved.
9. We will intensify our efforts to prevent new casualties in affected areas. We will strive towards providing effective, relevant and targeted mine risk education and other risk reduction measures to all groups at risk to increase protection until the threat of anti-personnel mines can be removed.
10. We will take practical steps to take into account the different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men as we implement the obligations of the Convention. We recognize that integrating a gender perspective and taking the diverse needs

and experiences of people in affected communities into account in all aspects of mine action programming and Convention implementation is important to effectively protect all people from anti-personnel mines. We will strive to remove barriers to full, equal and gender-balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings.

11. We recognise that a mine-free world will not immediately mean a world without mine victims and survivors. We are committed to ensuring the full, equal and effective participation of mine survivors and victims in society, based on respect for human rights, gender equality, diverse needs and non-discrimination.

12. We recognise the need to integrate assistance to victims and survivors into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction.

13. We believe that strong national ownership and international cooperation and assistance are essential for the continued success of the Convention. We will do our utmost to strengthen partnerships and to sustain and, where necessary, increase resources, assistance, national and international funding. We will explore options for new and alternative sources of funding with a view to increasing the resources available to realise the Convention's aims.

14. We emphasize that the effective implementation of the Convention directly contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitment to leaving no one behind. We will continue to develop synergies between the Convention and the sustainable development agenda to ensure the greatest benefits possible for communities affected by anti-personnel mines.

15. Through the realisation of the Convention's aims, States Parties are saving lives, protecting people, assisting victims and enabling sustainable development in affected areas. We, the States Parties, commit to intensifying our efforts to complete our respective time-bound obligations with the urgency that the completion work requires. We aspire to meet these goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025. The Oslo Action Plan 2019-2024 will be an essential tool towards the fulfilment of this ambition.

Oslo Action Plan

(as adopted at the final plenary meeting on 29 November 2019)

I. Introduction

1. Ensuring the full universalisation and implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is vital for protecting people and putting an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. While recognising the progress made since the entry into force of the Convention, States Parties are deeply concerned by the rise in the number of casualties since 2014. Anti-personnel mines contamination from the past continues to cause harm and new use of anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature, has added to the challenge in recent years.

2. The States Parties reaffirm their unwavering commitment to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines for all people for all time. They will intensify their efforts to complete their time-bound obligations as soon as possible, and to the fullest extent possible by 2025. In doing so, the States Parties recognise that achieving a mine-free world will not immediately mean a world without mine victims and survivors and continue to be guided by their desire to ensure sustainable, integrated support for victims.

3. Mine action is broadly recognised as a humanitarian protection activity as well as a key enabler for development, humanitarian action, peace and security. Implementation of the Convention contributes significantly to preventing human suffering and in turn to advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitment to leave no one behind.

4. The Convention is the legally binding framework that guides the States Parties' actions as they implement the Convention in pursuit of their common goal. The Oslo Action Plan details the actions States Parties will take during the period of 2020–2024 to support implementation of the Convention, building on the achievements of the Nairobi, Cartagena and Maputo Action Plans.

II. Best practices for implementing the Convention

5. The States Parties are committed to meeting their obligations in the Convention's traditional spirit of cooperation and transparency. In support of fulfilling their obligations, they will continue to recognise the special partnerships of the Convention with the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and to foster partnerships with civil society in support of implementing the Convention. Since the entry into force of the Convention, the States Parties have identified best practices that are key to the successful implementation of the Convention's obligations, including, but not limited to:

- strong national ownership;
- evidence-based national strategies and work plans;
- integrating and mainstreaming gender considerations and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account in mine action programming;
- efficient use of available resources, including through the use of the latest methodologies in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS);

- partnership, coordination and regular dialogue between stakeholders;
- national and international resource commitments, where possible on a multi-year basis;
- transparency and the exchange of high quality and accurate information in line with the Convention obligations;
- accurate and sustainable national information management systems;
- the effective functioning of the Convention's implementation machinery, including the work of the Committees, the support provided by the Implementation Support Unit and the holding of Meetings of the States Parties.

6. Recognising these best practices, the States Parties will take the following cross-cutting actions, which will contribute to the effective implementation of all areas of the Oslo Action Plan:

Action #1 Demonstrate high levels of national ownership¹, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities as appropriate, and by making financial and other commitments to implementation.

Action #2 Develop evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans to fulfil and implement Convention obligations as soon as possible.

Action #3 Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes, in order to deliver an inclusive approach. Strive to remove barriers to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings.

Action #4 Take into consideration the needs of mine survivors and affected communities and ensure their meaningful participation in all Convention related matters, including their equal and active participation in Convention meetings.

Action #5 Keep national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), adapt them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.

Action #6 Strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between the mine action community and relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, development and human rights communities, bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Action #7 States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance, where feasible, to other States Parties in developing, updating or implementing their national strategies and work plans to fulfil their respective Convention obligations. Where possible, they will enter into multi-year partnerships and provide multi-year funding.

¹ The States Parties have defined national ownership as entailing the following: 'maintaining interest at a high level in fulfilling Convention obligations; empowering and providing relevant State entities with the human, financial and material capacity to carry out their obligations under the Convention; articulating the measures its State entities will undertake to implement relevant aspects of Convention in the most inclusive, efficient and expedient manner possible and plans to overcome any challenges that need to be addressed; and making a regular significant national financial commitment to the State's programmes to implement the Convention'.

Action #8 Provide quality information on progress and challenges in implementing the Convention, including on cooperation and assistance, by 30 April each year in line with Article 7, employing the Guide to Reporting², and during formal and informal meetings.

Action #9 Establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. The design and implementation of information management systems will ensure that they are nationally owned, sustainable and take into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion.

Action #10 Pay their assessed contributions in line with Article 14 of the Convention as early in the year as possible, and swiftly settle any arrears, to ensure that meetings can take place as planned. States Parties in a position to do so will consider providing voluntary resources for the effective functioning of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), making multi-year commitments where feasible, in accordance with the ISU's 5-year work plan.

III. Universalisation

7. The Convention has established a strong norm against any use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel mines. While this norm is widely adhered to even by States not Party to the Convention, efforts to promote universalisation of the Convention and the strengthening of its norms must continue. In order to do so, the States Parties will take the following actions:

Action #11 Use all available avenues to promote ratification of/accession to the Convention by States not party including by encouraging their participation in the work of the Convention.

Action #12 Continue to promote universal observance of the Convention's norms and objectives, condemn 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.

IV. Stockpile destruction and retention of anti-personnel mines

8. Great strides have been made in the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines since the entry into force of the Convention. Each mine destroyed potentially represents a life or limb saved. To ensure that all stockpiled anti-personnel mines are expeditiously destroyed in line with Article 4 of the Convention and that anti-personnel mines retained under Article 3 do not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes, States Parties with obligations under Article 4 and/or who retain anti-personnel mines in line with Article 3 will take the following actions:

Action #13 Develop a time-bound plan with clear milestones for the fulfilment of Article 4 within their deadline as soon as possible following the entry into force of the Convention, and regularly inform States Parties on progress made and remaining challenges in implementation.

Action #14 States Parties that have failed to meet their stockpile destruction deadline and therefore are in non-compliance with Article 4, will present a time-bound plan for completion

² APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.2
https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/transparency/art7-reporting/Guide_to_reporting_EN.pdf

and urgently proceed with implementation as soon as possible in a transparent manner, regularly informing States Parties on progress made and remaining challenges.

Action #15 Any State Party that discovers previously unknown stockpiles after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed will inform States Parties as soon as possible and destroy these anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgent priority and no later than six months after their discovery.

Action #16 Any State Party that retains anti-personnel mines for reasons permitted under Article 3 of the Convention will annually review the number of mines retained to ensure that they do not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes, and will destroy all anti-personnel mines that exceed that number. The States Parties will report annually by 30 April on the use of retained mines and on their destruction.

Action #17 Explore available alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes where possible.

V. Survey and clearance of mined areas

9. Considerable progress has been made in addressing mined areas, but the States Parties reiterate the need to increase the pace of survey and clearance activities to meet Article 5 obligations as soon as possible to ensure significant progress towards their ambition of completing their time-bound obligations to the fullest extent possible by 2025. Accelerated survey and clearance will provide the greatest contribution to reducing human suffering and to protecting people from the risk posed by anti-personnel mines. New use of anti-personnel mines in recent conflicts, including those of an improvised nature, has added to the remaining challenge of some States Parties in fulfilling their commitments under Article 5. In their efforts to address all remaining anti-personnel mine contamination safely and swiftly, States Parties with obligations under Article 5 will take the following actions:

Action #18 States Parties that have not yet done so will identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources no later than by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021.

Action #19 Develop evidence-based and costed national work plans, including projections of the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually to achieve completion as soon as possible, and no later than their Article 5 deadline, to be presented at the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2020.

Action #20 Annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established.

Action #21 States Parties affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature will ensure that they apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination as they do for all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregate by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.

Action #22 Report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by ‘suspected hazardous areas’ and ‘confirmed hazardous areas’ and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination. Report on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).

Action #23 States Parties submitting requests for extensions will ensure that these requests contain detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period and are developed through an inclusive process, in line with the decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties³ and the recommendations endorsed by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties in the paper «Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process»⁴.

Action #24 States Parties submitting requests for extensions will also ensure that the request include detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.

Action #25 States Parties who complete their clearance obligations will continue the best practice of submitting voluntary declarations of completion and give due consideration to the paper «Reflections and understandings on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations»⁵ in that regard.

Action #26 Ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. In addressing these areas, they will consider the commitments made at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties as contained in the paper «Proposed rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed»⁶.

Action #27 Take appropriate steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction

10. Mine risk education can help prevent new mine accidents and save lives. In addition to clearance, providing risk education and other risk reduction programmes to affected populations is a primary means of preventing injuries and fatal accidents. In recent years, large new groups of refugees and internally displaced persons have come to count among the many groups at risk from anti-personnel mines and the number of casualties has been on the rise. Against this backdrop, the delivery of effective, relevant risk education and other risk reduction programmes that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and that take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account, require ongoing focus in order to prevent new mine accidents. In order to address this situation, the States Parties will take the following actions:

Action #28 Integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities to reduce the risk to the affected population and decrease their need for risk-taking.

Action #29 Provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk. Ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population,

³ APLC/MSP.7/2006/L.3, https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/7MSP/7MSP_Art5_Presidents_Paper_7Sept06_Final.pdf

⁴ APLC/MSP.12/2012/4, <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/12MSP/12MSP-Reflections-Art5-Extensions-Process-Sep2012.pdf>

⁵ APLC/MSP.17/2018/10, <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/17MSP/Reflections-Art.5-en.pdf>

⁶ APLC/MSP.12/2012/7, <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/12MSP/12MSP-Previously-Unknown-Mined-Areas-CoChairs-Proposal.pdf>

and that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

Action #30 Prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements.

Action #31 Build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered.

Action #32 Report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age.

VII. Victim assistance

11. States Parties remain committed to ensuring the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society, based on respect for human rights, gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination. The States Parties have recognised that, in order to be effective and sustainable, victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, and to health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction in support of the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals. States Parties with victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control will endeavour to do their utmost to provide appropriate, affordable and accessible services to mine victims, on an equal basis with others. In order to realise this commitment, States Parties with a significant number of victims under their jurisdiction or control will take the following actions:

Action #33 Ensure that a relevant government entity is assigned to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks. The assigned entity will develop an action plan and monitor and report on implementation based on specific, measurable, realistic and time-bound objectives to support mine victims. This involves the removal of physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services; and the use of an approach that is inclusive of gender, age and disability and takes diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes.

Action #34 Carry out multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed through national policy and legal frameworks relating to disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction, in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Action #35 Establish or strengthen a centralised database that includes information on persons killed by mines as well as on persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, and make this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims.

Action #36 Provide effective and efficient first aid to casualties in mine-affected communities, as well as other medical emergency services, and ongoing medical care.

Action #37 Ensure, where appropriate and possible, a national referral mechanism to facilitate access to services for mine victims, including by creating and disseminating a comprehensive directory of services.

Action #38 Take steps to ensure that, taking into account local, national and regional circumstances, all mine victims, including in rural and remote areas, have access to comprehensive rehabilitation services and psychological and psychosocial support services, including through the provision of outreach rehabilitation service, where necessary, while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable. This includes the provision of assistive devices, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and peer-to-peer support programs.

Action #39 Carry out efforts to ensure the social and economic inclusion of mine victims, such as access to education, capacity-building, employment referral services, microfinance institutions, business development services, rural development and social protection programmes, including in rural and remote areas.

Action #40 Ensure that relevant national humanitarian response and preparedness plans provide for the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, in line with relevant international humanitarian and human rights law and international guidelines.

Action #41 Ensure the full inclusion and effective participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in all matters that affect them, including in rural and remote areas.

VIII. International cooperation and assistance

12. While reaffirming that each State Party is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, the States Parties stress that enhanced cooperation can support implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible. With a view to enhancing cooperation in order to meet the Convention's obligations and aspirations as soon as possible, States Parties will take the following actions:

Action #42 Do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible alternative and/or innovative sources of funding.

Action #43 States Parties seeking assistance will develop resource mobilisation plans and use all mechanisms within the Convention to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance, including through their annual Article 7 transparency reports and by taking advantage of the individualised approach. States Parties will share the outcomes of the individualised approach with the wider mine action community in order to maximise its impact.

Action #44 States Parties will strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. They will consider, where relevant, establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.

Action #45 States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance to other States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention, in line with their development policies. In doing so, they will support the implementation of clear, evidence-based national strategies and work plans that respond to the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities and are built on sound gender, age and disability analysis. Support to victim assistance can be provided through the mine action budget, and/or through integrating victim assistance into broader development and humanitarian efforts.

Action #46 States Parties in a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties.

Action #47 Continuously explore opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Cooperation of this kind may include making mutually supporting clearance commitments in border areas, sharing experience of integrating gender and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account into programming, and, in line with Article 6, exchanging equipment, material and scientific and technological information (or donating them after one State Party reaches completion) in order to promote the implementation of the Convention.

IX. Measures to ensure compliance

13. Stressing the importance of complying with all the Convention's provisions, the States Parties remain committed to ensuring compliance with the obligations of the Convention in order to reach its objectives. Reaffirming their commitment to promote compliance with the Convention, the States Parties will take the following actions:

Action #48 In the event of alleged or known non-compliance with the general obligations under Article 1, the State Party concerned will provide information on the situation to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. It will 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 8.1.

Action #49 Any State Party implementing obligations in particular under Article 4 or 5, or retaining or transferring mines in line with Article 3 that has not submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing these obligations each year will provide in close cooperation with the ISU an annual update on the status of implementation in line with Article 7 and will provide information to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. If no information on implementing the relevant obligations for two consecutive years is provided, the President will assist and engage with the States Parties concerned in close cooperation with the relevant Committee.

Action #50 Any State Party that has not yet fulfilled its obligations under Article 9 of the Convention will urgently take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement those obligations and report on the measures taken no later than by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties.

Appendix

Indicators

In order to monitor progress in implementing the Oslo Action Plan, the following table of indicators has been developed. The information submitted in the States Parties' annual Article 7 reports will serve as the main source of data to assess progress. Members of the Coordinating Committee and the President will be responsible for measuring progress within their mandate, with the support of the Implementation Support Unit. A baseline value for all indicators will be established based on the data reported in the first year of implementation, in Article 7 reports due by 30 April 2020, and progress in subsequent years will be compared to this baseline. States Parties are encouraged to provide detailed information allowing for as accurate an assessment as possible of the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<i>Best practices for implementing the Convention</i>	
<p>1. Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities as appropriate, and by making financial and other commitments to implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate the percentage of mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention
<p>2. Develop evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans to fulfil and implement Convention obligations as soon as possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place
<p>3. Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes, in order to deliver an inclusive approach. Strive to remove barriers to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account the percentage of women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings
<p>4. Take into consideration the needs of mine survivors and affected communities and ensure their meaningful participation in all Convention related matters, including their equal and active participation in Convention meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of affected States Parties that report having developed their national strategies and work plans in an inclusive manner the number of mine victims participating as parts of delegations to Convention meetings

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
5. Keep national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), adapt them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of States Parties with a significant number of victims that report that they include victim organisations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level the percentage of affected States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS
6. Strengthen partnerships and integrated responses between the mine action community and relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, development and human rights communities, bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant
7. States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance, where feasible, to other States Parties in developing, updating or implementing their national strategies and work plans to fulfil their respective Convention obligations. Where possible, they will enter into multi-year partnerships and provide multi-year funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that report partnerships with other States Parties in support of fulfilment of Convention obligations the number of States Parties that report providing financial or other support to affected States Parties the number of States Parties that report providing multi-year funding to affected States Parties
8. Provide quality information on progress and challenges in implementing the Convention, including on cooperation and assistance, by 30 April each year in line with Article 7, employing the Guide to Reporting, and during formal and informal meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting the number of States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings
9. Establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. The design and implementation of information management systems will ensure that they are nationally owned, sustainable and take into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of affected States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<p>10. Pay their assessed contributions in line with Article 14 of the Convention as early in the year as possible, and swiftly settle any arrears, to ensure that meetings can take place as planned. States Parties in a position to do so will consider providing voluntary resources for the effective operation of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), making multi-year commitments where feasible, in accordance with the ISU's 5-year work plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of States Parties that pay their assessed contributions no later than three months before the Meeting of the States Parties • the number of States Parties that make voluntary financial contributions to the ISU
<i>Universalisation</i>	
<p>11. Use all available avenues to promote ratification of/accession to the Convention by States not party including by encouraging their participation in the work of the Convention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of new States Parties to the Convention • the percentage of States not party participating in meetings of the Convention • the percentage of States not party submitting voluntary Article 7 reports
<p>12. Continue to promote universal observance of the Convention's norms and objectives, condemn 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of States not party that report putting in place moratoria on activities prohibited by the Convention • the number of votes in favour of the annual UN General Assembly resolution on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
<i>Stockpile destruction and retention of anti-personnel mines</i>	
<p>13. Develop a time-bound plan with clear milestones for the fulfilment of Article 4 within their deadline as soon as possible following the entry into force of the Convention, and regularly inform States Parties on progress made and remaining challenges in implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of States Parties that have completed their Article 4 obligations • the number of States Parties implementing Article 4 that have time-bound plans in place for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines • the number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed
<p>14. States Parties that have failed to meet their stockpile destruction deadline and therefore are in non-compliance with Article 4, will present a time-bound plan for completion and urgently proceed with implementation as soon as possible in a transparent manner, regularly informing States Parties on progress made and remaining challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of States Parties that failed to meet their deadline that present time-bound plans for completion and report progress in implementation

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<p>15. Any State Party that discovers previously unknown stockpiles after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed will inform States Parties as soon as possible and destroy these anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgent priority and no later than six months after their discovery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of the States Parties that have reported the discovery of previously unknown stockpiles destroy these anti-personnel mines within six months
<p>16. Any State Party that retains anti-personnel mines for reasons permitted under Article 3 of the Convention will annually review the number of mines retained to ensure that they do not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes and will destroy all anti-personnel mines that exceed that number. The States Parties will report annually by 30 April on the use of retained mines and on their destruction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of States Parties with anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes that report on the current and planned uses of these mines
<p>17. Explore available alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the total number of States Parties that report replacing live anti-personnel mines with alternative measures for training and research purposes
<p><i>Survey and clearance of mined areas</i></p>	
<p>18. States Parties that have not yet done so will identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources no later than by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP) the percentage of affected States Parties that report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men
<p>19. Develop evidence-based and costed national work plans, including projections of the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually to achieve completion as soon as possible, and no later than their Article 5 deadline, to be presented at the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)
<p>20. Annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5
21. States Parties affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature will ensure that they apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination as they do for all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregate by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)
22. Report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination. Report on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS the percentage of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination
23. States Parties submitting requests for extensions will ensure that these requests contain detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period and are developed through an inclusive process, in line with the decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties and the recommendations endorsed by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties in the paper «Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process».	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period the percentage of extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties
24. States Parties submitting requests for extension will also ensure that the request includes detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities
25. States Parties who complete their clearance obligations will continue the best practice of submitting voluntary declarations of completion and give due consideration to the paper «Reflections and understandings on the implementation and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations» in that regard.	
<p>26. Ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. In addressing these areas, they will consider the commitments made at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties as contained in the paper «Proposed rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed».</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans • the percentage of affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas • the percentage of States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties
<p>27. Take appropriate steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means
<i>Mine risk education and reduction</i>	
<p>28. Integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities to reduce the risk to the affected population and decrease their need for risk-taking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant
<p>29. Provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk. Ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a need's assessment, that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place • the percentage of States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs
<p>30. Prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<p>wherever possible, anticipated population movements.</p>	
<p>31. Build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered
<p>32. Report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results
<i>Victim assistance</i>	
<p>33. Ensure that a relevant government entity is assigned to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks. The assigned entity will develop an action plan and monitor and report on implementation based on specific, measurable, realistic and time-bound objectives to support mine victims. This involves the removal of physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services; and the use of an approach that is inclusive of gender, age and disability and takes diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities the number of States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators
<p>34. Carry out multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed through national policy and legal frameworks relating to disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction, in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks
<p>35. Establish or strengthen a centralised database that includes information on persons killed by mines as well as on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, and make this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability
36. Provide effective and efficient first aid to casualties in mine-affected communities, as well as other medical emergency services, and ongoing medical care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents
37. Ensure, where appropriate and possible, a national referral mechanism to facilitate access to services for mine victims, including by creating and disseminating a comprehensive directory of services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism the number of States Parties that report having a directory of services in place
38. Take steps to ensure that, taking into account local, national and regional circumstances, all mine victims, including in rural and remote areas, have access to comprehensive rehabilitation services and psychological and psychosocial support services, including through the provision of outreach rehabilitation services, where necessary, while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable. This includes the provision of assistive devices, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and peer-to-peer support programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services the number of States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services the number of States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system
39. Carry out efforts to ensure the social and economic inclusion of mine victims such as access to education, capacity-building, employment referral services, microfinance institutions, business development services, rural development and social protection programmes, including in rural and remote areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims
40. Ensure that relevant national humanitarian response and preparedness plans provide for the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, in line with relevant international	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<p>humanitarian and human rights law and international guidelines.</p>	
<p>41. Ensure the full inclusion and effective participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in all matters that affect them, including in rural and remote areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of States Parties that report that they include victim representatives or their organizations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level
<p><i>International cooperation and assistance</i></p>	
<p>42. Do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible alternative and/or innovative sources of funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention • the number of States Parties that provide financial or other support to affected States Parties • alternative and/or innovative sources of financing have been explored
<p>43. States Parties seeking assistance will develop resource mobilisation plans and use all mechanisms within the Convention to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance, including through their annual Article 7 transparency reports and by taking advantage of the individualised approach. States Parties will share the outcomes of the individualised approach with the wider mine action community in order to maximise its impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of States Parties requiring support that provide information on progress, challenges and requirements for assistance in Article 7 reports and Convention meetings • the number of States Parties that have taken advantage of the individualised approach and that report having received follow-up and/or increased support to meet the needs identified
<p>44. States Parties will strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. They will consider, where relevant, establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of States Parties that have an in-country platform for dialogue among all stakeholders that meets on a regular basis
<p>45. States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance to other States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention, in line with their development policies. In doing so, they will support the implementation of clear, evidence-based national strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of States Parties that report providing financial or other support to affected States Parties • The number of States Parties that report providing support to victim assistance through the mine action budget and/or making support

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<p>and work plans that respond to the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities and are built on sound gender, age and disability analysis. Support to victim assistance can be provided through the mine action budget, and/or through integrating victim assistance into broader development and humanitarian efforts.</p>	<p>available to victims, on an equal basis with others, as part of broader development and humanitarian efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of States Parties that report providing support to mine clearance activities
<p>46. States Parties in a position to provide assistance will, where possible using existing mechanisms, coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of States Parties that report coordinating their support for the effective implementation of the Convention
<p>47. Continuously explore opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South, with a view to voluntary sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Cooperation of this kind may include making mutually supporting clearance commitments in border areas, sharing experience of integrating gender and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account into programming, and, in line with Article 6, exchanging equipment, material and scientific and technological information (or donating them after one State Party reaches completion) in order to promote the implementation of the Convention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of States Parties that report sharing best practices and lessons learnt through international, regional, South-to-South and/or bilateral cooperation
<p><i>Measures to ensure compliance</i></p>	
<p>48. In the event of alleged or known non-compliance with the general obligations under Article 1, the State Party concerned will provide information on the situation to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. It will 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 8.1.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of States Parties with alleged or known non-compliance in relation to Article 1 • the percentage of States Parties in a situation of alleged/known non-compliance with Article 1 that provide updates to all States Parties
<p>49. Any State Party implementing obligations in particular under Article 4 or 5, or retaining or transferring mines in line with Article 3 that has not submitted an</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of States Parties that are implementing obligations under Article 4 or 5, or retaining mines in line with Article 3.1, and that have not submitted an Article 7 report

<i>Action items</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<p>Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing these obligations each year will provide in close cooperation with the ISU an annual update on the status of implementation in line with Article 7 and will provide information to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. If no information on implementing the relevant obligations for two consecutive years is provided, the President will assist and engage with the States Parties concerned in close cooperation with the relevant Committee.</p> <p>50. Any State Party that has not yet fulfilled its obligations under Article 9 of the Convention will urgently take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement those obligations and report on the measures taken no later than by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties.</p>	<p>detailing progress in implementing these obligations in the last two years, that provide updates to all States Parties in Article 7 reports and during meetings of the States Parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of States Parties that have reported having fulfilling Article 9

Review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 2014-2019

I. Introduction

1. 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 on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines, by clearing mined areas, destroying stockpiles and providing assistance to mine 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.

2. 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 and in meeting the 2025 aspirational goal set by the States Parties. While regular progress continues to be made, challenges remain to reach a mine-free world and ensure that healthcare and broader support services provide sustainable support to mine victims. This review is intended to record the progress made by the States Parties in fulfilling their obligations since the Third Review Conference, take stock of the current status of implementation and document the decisions, recommendations and understandings adopted by the States Parties since the Third 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.

II. Universalizing the Convention

3. As of 27 June 2014, the Convention had entered into force for 161 States Parties. Since the Third Review Conference, three States have 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.

4. 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 People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Marshall Islands (signatory), Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

5. At the Third 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 to inform States Parties of practical steps taken, such as formalised commitments not to use, produce or transfer anti-personnel mines, and to destroy stockpiles. Since the Third 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 16 States not party took part in at least one of the Convention’s meetings since

2014: Azerbaijan, China, India, Republic of Korea, 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 provide support to States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention.

6. 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 in 2018, the following 16 States not party to the Convention voted in favour: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Federated States of, Mongolia, Morocco, Singapore, Tonga and the United Arab Emirates.

7. In voting in favour of the resolution, many States not party acknowledged and supported to various degrees the humanitarian goals of the Convention and highlighted 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, States not party expressed that 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. Still, other States have indicated as an obstacle to accession the 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.

8. 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 not party are rare, since the Third Review Conference, new use of anti-personnel mines has been recorded in three States not party to the Convention: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, and Syrian Arab Republic. Additionally, not only does the Convention's prohibition on the use of anti-personnel mines binds its 164 States Parties, but the Convention's norms have seen widespread acceptance by States not party to the Convention, for example:

(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.

(b) All States not party to the exception of three – Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Uzbekistan – have participated at least once in a Convention-related meeting. A number of States not party regularly deliver statements to provide information about their State's position on accession and/or on their activities to implement certain provisions of the Convention as well as their contributions 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 recognised the threat posed by anti-personnel mines.

9. The production of anti-personnel mines remains rare. At one time more than fifty (50) States produced anti-personnel mines. Thirty-six (36) of these States are now party to the Convention and have ceased and prohibited all production, in line with the Convention. Today only a handful of States not party have been recorded as producers of mines in the last years. In 2019, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) listed 11 States as landmine producers because they have yet to disavow future production, unchanged from the previous report: China, Cuba, India, Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic

of Korea, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore and Vietnam. Of these, 4 are reported to likely be actively producing.

10. 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 7 States not party having reported putting in place moratoria or bans on transfer of anti-personnel mines. Globally, any trade appears limited to a very low level of illicit trafficking.

11. Since the Third Review Conference, there has been an increase in the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature by armed non-state actors. The views were expressed that engagement with these groups could help ensure that these actors cease the use stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines as soon as possible. Nevertheless, the view was also expressed that when engagement by non-governmental organisations of armed non-state actors is considered, vigilance is required to prevent organizations that commit terrorist acts from exploiting the Ottawa Process for their own goals. Some States Parties continue to be of the view that when engagement with armed non-state actors is contemplated, States Parties concerned should be informed and their consent would be necessary in order for such an engagement to take place.

12. States Parties have reported on the use of anti-personnel mines by non-state actors including in: Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Nigeria, Ukraine and Yemen. At the Third Review Conference, the States Parties resolved to continue promoting universal observance of the Convention's norms and objectives, to condemn violations of these norms and to take appropriate steps to end the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including by armed non-state actors. The States Parties have acknowledged the importance of continued efforts to condemn the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by any actor, ensuring that the norm against the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines remains strong. Since the Third Review Conference, subsequent Presidents of the Convention and several States Parties have expressed deep concern in response to new emplacements of anti-personnel mines, including anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, and called for actors concerned to cease the use of such 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.

13. While the vast majority of States with anti-personnel mines in areas under their jurisdiction or control have joined the Convention, the Landmine Monitor indicates that the following 22 of the 33 States not party to the Convention have not: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cuba, China, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Israel, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. All 22 of these States perceive, or may perceive, that they derive utility from emplaced mines and are, or may be, in essence, users of anti-personnel mines. While the vast majority of States with stockpiled anti-personnel mines – 91 – have joined the Convention, the Landmine Monitor indicates that the following 30 of the 33 States not party to the Convention likely possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syria, UAE, United States, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

14. States not party can submit voluntary Article 7 transparency 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 Third Review Conference, only Morocco submitted such a report every year.

15. Given their resolve to achieve universal adherence to the Convention and its norms, the States Parties agreed at the Third 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 requested 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.

16. In light of the universalisation challenges noted at the Third Review Conference and commitments made to overcome these challenges, each year since the Third Review Conference the President of the Convention has engaged with States not party through writing, requesting updated information concerning their positions vis a vis the Convention and employing the information to develop observations and conclusions on the status of universalization of the Convention presented at intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties. On an annual basis, the Convention's President has held bilateral meetings with representatives of States not party to encourage their engagement with the work of the Convention and to continue their consideration to accede to/ratify the Convention as soon as possible and to consider making formal commitments to adhere to the Convention. In addition to these activities, the President of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties established an informal working group on Universalization to find collaborative approaches to promoting universalization. Likewise, the Meetings of the States Parties have called upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

17. In addition to the activities of the President, the Convention's Special Envoys, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein and Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium, in coordination with the President, have continued to make themselves available to engage States not party to the Convention at a high level. Efforts in this regard have also been supported by individual States Parties, the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), the African Union (AU), the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and others who have continued to promote acceptance of the Convention in various ways, including through bi-lateral dialogue as well as through the holding of seminars on the implementation of the Convention ensuring that the subject remains on the agenda. For example, New Zealand in cooperation with Australia and supported by the three Geneva-based Implementation Support Units (ATT, APMBC and CCM) held a Pacific Conference on Conventional Weapons Treaties on 12-14 February 2018 in Auckland, where representatives of Pacific States adopted an Auckland Declaration on Conventional Weapons Treaties in which States not party in the region undertook to promote membership among relevant domestic stakeholders. Likewise, the ICRC held a Regional Seminar on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and Explosive Remnants of War Co-hosted by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Vientiane on 29-30 April 2019 providing an opportunity to raise awareness of the Convention's commitments amongst States not party of the Convention.

18. The States Parties have recognised, that in order to ensure success of universalization efforts, continuous engagement with States not party will be required by both States Parties and organisations. While accession is the ultimate objective, States not party have been encouraged to take concrete steps towards accession such as enacting moratoria on the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines as well as destroying stockpiled mines, clearing mined areas, providing mine risk education, assisting mine victims, submitting voluntary transparency reports, voting in favour of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the implementation of the Convention and participating in the work of the Convention.

III. Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

19. At the close of the Third 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 if it possessed stockpiles and one State Party - Tuvalu – needed to confirm whether they held stockpiled anti-personnel mines or not. Tuvalu’s initial report was due on 28 August 2012.

20. Since the Third Review Conference, the following has transpired:

(a) the Convention entered into force for three States with two of these States reporting 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 have since reported having completed the destruction of their 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 contained anti-personnel mines reported that it does not possess any stockpiled anti-personnel 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 noncompliant since 1 March 2008 (Greece) and 1 June 2010 (Ukraine). At the Third Review Conference, the States Parties agreed 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 jurisdiction or control 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, all States Parties that have missed their Article 4 deadline have responded to this call by providing a plan for the destruction of the remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines, reporting on progress and the remaining challenge and by engaging with the President in this regard. The States Parties have recognised the continued importance of States Parties 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. One State Party, Tuvalu, has yet to provide its required initial transparency information and hence has not yet confirmed the presence or absence of stockpiled anti-personnel mines. However, Tuvalu is presumed not to hold stocks. Hence, there are now 161 States Parties which do not hold stockpiles of anti-personnel mines because they have completed their destruction programmes or because they never held stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, together States Parties have reported the destruction of almost 53 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

23. At the Third 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 anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgent priority and no later than six months after the report of their discovery. Since the Third Review Conference, 4 States Parties - Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mauritania and Palau - have reported the discovery of previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with the commitments made in the Maputo Action Plan. Together these States Parties reported the destruction of 3,457 previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Since the Third

Review Conference, subsequent Presidents have highlighted the importance of continuing to report the discovery of previously unknown stockpiles and ensuring their destruction as soon as possible following their discovery and have included information in this regard in their observations and conclusions on stockpile destruction.

24. Since the Third Review Conference, one of the main challenges in stockpile destruction has been the pending completion of stockpile destruction by Greece and Ukraine. Both of these States Parties have reported progress in destroying their stockpiled anti-personnel mines and have provided an expected end date for implementation. Sri Lanka has also presented demonstrable progress and presented a timeline for completion of implementation of their stockpile destruction commitments. The States Parties have recognised that it is critical that States Parties make every effort to achieve completion of their Article 4 obligations, as soon as possible, and no later than their respective deadline, and that they do so in a transparent manner by communicating progress made and remaining challenge on a regular basis. In this regard, the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties appealed to the States Parties which are in noncompliance with their article 4 obligations to intensify efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.

IV. Retention of anti-personnel mines

25. At the Third Review Conference, it was agreed that “each State Party that has 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, where appropriate exploring available alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines for training and research activities”. At the Third 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.

26. Since the Third Review Conference, the following has transpired:

(a) Five States Parties – Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Thailand and Uruguay – which previously reported anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes – indicated that they no longer retain 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 – Ethiopia – after having reported that it retained anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes indicated that it does not have anti-personnel mines for such purposes;

(e) One State Party - Tajikistan – reported that it retains anti-personnel mines again;

(f) One State Party – Tuvalu - has not yet declared whether it retains anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes;

(g) Three States Parties – Afghanistan, Portugal and the United Kingdom – have confirmed that the anti-personnel mines they retain under Article 3 are inert and therefore do not fall under the definition of the Convention.

27. There are now 70 States Parties that have reported that they retain anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes: Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, 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, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania, 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 totals 162,796, this is 25,305 more than at the time of the Third Review Conference with this increase due to new States Parties having joined the Convention which retain anti-personnel mines.

28. Since the Third Review Conference, most States Parties have provided updated annual information on the number of anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes as required by Article 7, with 54 of them providing some level of voluntary information on the use (present and/or future) of retained anti-personnel mines. However the following States Parties which have reported that they retain anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 3 have not submitted annual updated transparency information on their retained mines for many years: Benin (2008), Cameroon (2009), Cape Verde (2009), Congo (2009), Djibouti (2005), Gambia (2013), Guinea Bissau (2011), Honduras (2007), Kenya (2008), Mali (2005), Namibia (2010), Nigeria (2012), Rwanda (2008), Tanzania (2009), Togo (2004), Uganda (2012) and Venezuela (2012).

29. Furthermore, in some cases, since the Third Review Conference, the following States Parties have reported the same number of retained mines in their Article 7 Reports: Bangladesh, Mauritania, Peru, Romania and Zimbabwe. Reporting the same number of retained mines over several years may indicate that the number of mines retained may not constitute the “minimum number absolutely necessary” for permitted purposes, unless otherwise reported.

30. In addition to the above, at the Third 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 Third Review Conference, Australia and Thailand indicated that they have destroyed their retained mines and now employ training mines.

V. Clearing mined areas

31. At the close of the Third Review Conference, 31 States Parties out of the 59 States Parties that had reported, since the Convention entered into force, areas under their jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced were in the process of implementing Article 5 obligations.

32. Since the Third Review Conference, the following has transpired:

(a) Three 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

33. In total, since the entry into force of the Convention, there are 63 States Parties that have reported obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention. Of these, there are now 32 States Parties for which Article 5 obligations remain relevant: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Niger, Oman, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

34. While significant and measurable progress has been achieved in the implementation of Article 5, challenges in implementation remain. 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 other cases – the continued use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature has been reported as a significant challenge in implementation of Article 5. This is a challenge which may persist and possibly become more prevalent in the future.

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”. Since the Third Review Conference 15 of the 32 States Parties implementing Article 5 have completed or have reported being in the process of carrying out survey to acquire more clarity on the remaining challenge including: Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Oman, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe. For example, since the Third 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 based on more accurate information. 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 greater clarity on the actual extent of contamination has been pointed out as an important objective of the States Parties in order to develop clear baselines and comprehensive work plans towards completion and ensure the appropriate prioritization of mine clearance operations.

36. 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.” 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...”. The States Parties have recognised 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”.

37. Since the Third Review Conference, the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on Land Release have been further updated to support States Parties in their work to ensure an “evidence-based approach” to survey and clearance. In this regard, the States Parties have pointed to the importance of ensuring that national mine action standards are in line with best practices highlighted in IMAS and are applied routinely by stakeholders. Since the Third Review Conference, 24 of the 32 States Parties reported having established and applied the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies in accordance with IMAS: Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia,

Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe. In spite of this, large amounts of area continue to be cleared which could have been released through non-technical and technical survey. To address this, it will be important to improve operational efficiency to ensure completion of mine clearance in the most effective, efficient and expeditious manner.

38. Furthermore, States Parties have recognised that the remaining challenge and progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States Parties implementing Article 5 obligations employed terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS (e.g. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”; disaggregating land release data by activity that is nontechnical survey, technical survey and clearance; reporting progress according to the result of each activity, that is land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

39. Since the Third Review Conference, there has been an increased recognition by the States Parties of the importance of integrating gender and age considerations throughout the survey and clearance process to ensure that comprehensive information on contamination is collected and to maximize the positive socio-economic impact of clearance efforts. While progress has been made in this regard, it has not been systematic, as there remains an increased need to include gender-focused objectives in organisational strategies and increasing the conduct of gender analysis while ensuring that this information is used to guide operational planning.

40. Since the Third Review Conference, four States Parties – Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq and Yemen - have reported an increase in the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature by armed non-state actors. In 2018, at the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, in a paper entitled “ Reflections and understandings on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations”, highlighted 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” and that 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.”⁷ Since the Third Review Conference, the States Parties have carried out efforts to ensure that States Parties affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature understand the need to address these types of anti-personnel mines within the framework of the Convention. In addition to the States Parties highlighted above, at the 22-24 May 2019 intersessional meetings, Nigeria acknowledged their obligation to report in this regard highlighting that a non-technical survey will commence in the most conflict-affected areas.

41. Since the Third Review Conference, the States Parties have recalled what the end-point is in the fulfilment of Article 5 obligations. The Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) reemphasised that “all areas falling under the definition of a ‘mined area’ and containing ‘anti-personnel mines’ must be addressed in order to meet the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. Furthermore, the 17MSP reemphasised that this obligation is independent of the difficulty to access a ‘mined area’ or of the type of anti-personnel mines employed (e.g. manufactured or of an improvised nature).”⁸

42. Since the Third Review Conference, the following States Parties have made use of the Article 5 extension request process: Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia,

⁷ Reflections and understandings on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, APLC/MSP.17/2018/10.

⁸ Ibid.

Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe. The States Parties have recognised the important opportunity presented by the extension request process and emphasised the importance of States Parties requiring an extension of their deadline to abide by the process established by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties on the submission and consideration of requests for extension as well as the recommendations regarding the Article 5 extension Process endorsed by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties.

43. Since the Third Review Conference, the States Parties reconfirmed the importance of States Parties 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 States Parties' achievement. In this regard and with the aim to provide support to States Parties in declaring completion in an unambiguous manner, the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties adopted the following recommendations:

(a) States Parties are encouraged to 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 Seventh Meeting of the States Parties and Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties. States Parties, when formally declaring completion are encouraged to provide detailed information on the activities carried out throughout the duration of the mine action programme taking into account the elements included the draft table of content for a voluntary declaration of completion.

(b) In keeping with the traditional spirit of cooperation of the Convention, States Parties in a position to declare completion, are encouraged to 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 further reconfirmed 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.⁹

45. At the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, the States Parties reconfirmed their understanding 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 situation as adopted by States Parties at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties and highlighted in the document entitled "rational response" to mined areas discovered after original or extended deadlines to implement Article 5 have expired". Since the Third Review Conference, Mozambique and Ukraine have found themselves in this specific situation having identified a previously unknown mined area/newly mined area following the expiration of their original or extended deadlines to implement Article 5.

46. Action 10 of the Maputo Action Plan obliges States Parties that have reported mined areas under their jurisdiction or control to provide mine risk reduction and education programmes targeting the most at-risk populations. Since the Third Review Conference, 29 of the 32 States Parties implementing Article 5 reported carrying out mine risk reduction and education programmes. During the thematic panels held during the 22-24 May 2019

⁹ Ibid.

intersessional meetings of the Convention, discussions highlighted the increased number of victims and the laying of new mined areas as well as the importance of ensuring that well-targeted, context-specific mine risk reduction and education programmes making use of relevant up-to-date technology and methodologies with a focus on gender and age are in place and that mine risk education programmes continue to be an important part of mine action and an essential activity to protect civilians. Discussions further emphasised the importance of prioritising risk education in mine action operations and linking risk education to survey, clearance and victim assistance operations as well as to national education systems and education in emergencies and refugee situations to ensure an effective response.

47. In 2015 countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since this time the States Parties have recognised the pivotal role of mine action in meeting the SDGs and in particular its role in supporting development and recovery efforts in States affected by conflicts. To this effect, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) conducted a study in 2017 that revealed that 16 SDGs are of direct or indirect relevance to mine action. The study further emphasised that while SDG 16 – Peace and Justice – is most directly relevant, the re-establishment of safe physical living environment is, however, not only an objective in itself, but also a precondition that makes possible development activities.

48. 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, both as a humanitarian protection activity in itself, and in support of humanitarian response activities.

VI. Assisting the victims

49. At the Third Review Conference, the States Parties reemphasised their commitment to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society. The States Parties recognised 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. Mine victims are rights holders under several international human rights instruments, including notably the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). 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.

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 Parties: 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.

51. Since the Third Review Conference, most of these States Parties have reported progress in the implementation of all or some 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 interministerial coordination mechanisms and established victim assistance action plans, amongst other activities. The Committee on Victim Assistance has noted the importance of States Parties continuing to provide detailed information on progress in implementation as well as on challenges in progressing with implementation. Since the Third Review Conference, of the 30 States Parties which have indicated a responsibility for a significant number of mine survivors all but two of these States have reported information on progress in victim assistance: Guinea Bissau and Eritrea.

52. Since the Third Review Conference, the number of new victims from explosive ordnance globally has increased due primarily to the new use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature in states in conflict situations. States Parties have reported that some of the greatest challenges affecting their progress in implementing 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 lack of an overall awareness of the broader rights of mine survivors, amongst others.

53. At the Third Review Conference, the States Parties recognised the importance of data collection in order to assess needs and identify gaps in support and develop measurable plans containing time bound and measurable objectives. Since the Third 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 carry out needs assessments which identify mine victims, register new victims and identify their needs and priorities, as well as challenges that hinder service delivery to mine victims. Others have reported being in the process of conducting survey, verification and consolidation of data. While progress has been made in a number of States Parties, other States Parties have reported obstacles in carrying out this initial step and few States Parties had reported on time-bound and measurable objectives they seek to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13 of the Maputo Action Plan.

54. During the thematic panels held during the 22-24 May 2019 intersessional meetings, discussions on victim assistance highlighted the importance of ensuring that ongoing injury surveillance systems are strengthened 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 States Parties ensure the collection of timely data on the physical impact of mines, disaggregated by effect, cause, age, sex, date, and location and that this data is operationalized in the response.

55. Since the Third Review Conference, a majority of the States Parties with responsibility for significant numbers of mine victims have invested efforts in developing inclusive plans of action, increasingly integrating victim assistance into broader plans related to disabilities, health and social welfares. For example, Thailand reported implementing a Master Plan for Mine Victim Assistance, which 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. Still others such as Iraq have reported being in the process of developing inclusive plans of action. However, a number of States Parties have reported challenges in achieving the full objectives of action plans primarily due to shortages in resources and technical capacities.

56. Since the Third Review Conference, many States Parties have reported progress in ensuring accessibility to services. 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. A number of States Parties have continued to report challenges in ensuring accessibility of services as well as socio-economic reintegration support for mine survivors and persons with disabilities in remote areas.

57. Since the Third Review Conference, a number of States Parties have reported on efforts to strengthen inclusion and raise awareness of the needs of mine victims. Increased participation of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities as well as their representative organisations in victim assistance or disability programmes has been reported in a number of States Parties such as Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, El Salvador, Iraq, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Serbia and Sudan. This participation has been accepted as critical in ensuring the effective socio-economic reintegration of mine survivors into their communities.

58. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been seen as highly complementary to a rights-based approach to victim assistance under the Convention, offering opportunities for continued efforts of strengthening collaboration between the Convention and other relevant frameworks that support mine victims and persons with disabilities. The States Parties have recognised the continued importance of States increasing and consolidating synergies between the Convention and other instruments associated with health, development, disability, rule of law and human rights, amongst others.

59. Since the Third Review Conference, the Committee on Victim Assistance has continued its efforts to reach out to broader frameworks through their participation in meetings of the Human Rights Council, the World Health Assembly, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee continued to promote the link of victim assistance with broader frameworks by supporting recommendations being put forward by the WHO on matters such as assistive technology and emergency trauma care, as well as, for example, recommending the development of a general comment on Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD).

60. Since the Third Review Conference, it has been increasingly recognised that a gender and age sensitive approach when collecting casualty data, and providing access and delivering services, is essential to effective victim assistance and to ensure that efforts are “leaving no-one behind.” However, it has also been recognised that the systematization of data collection and operationalization of information collected improved.

61. Since the Third Review Conference, a number of national stakeholder dialogues have been held to strengthen the national response to victim assistance and raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, acquired through wider rights recognition for protected groups, e.g. disability status. For example, Iraq, South Sudan 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. Some of the results have included the increased understanding and awareness of the rights-based approach to assistance to and matters related to persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, the importance of gender and age-based approaches, the relevance of timely data provided in disaggregated fashion and the

need for affordable and accessible support. States Parties and participating organisations have expressed the value of these type of robust national dialogues.

62. Since the Third Review Conference, 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 approaches to victim assistance.

63. On the margins of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee on Victim Assistance held a Victim Assistance Experts Meeting focusing on the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan and in particular Action 15 which commits States Parties to, taking into account their own local, national and regional circumstances, “do their utmost to strengthen local capacities, enhance coordination with subnational entities as relevant and appropriate, and increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims”. The Victim Assistance Experts Meeting was the first time the Committee had convened such a meeting since 2013. Participants highlighted the importance of hosting such events to promote the exchange of ideas and best practices with other victim assistance practitioners and accelerate implementation of the victim assistance commitments of the Convention.

64. Since 2018, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) has been able to reinstate its inter-ministerial process support to all relevant States Parties and has undertaken process support visits to Cambodia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. Process support aims to advance the State’s inter-ministerial efforts to establish SMART objectives and develop victim assistance plans. This work has been carried in coordination with the Committee on Victim Assistance.

VII. Cooperation and Assistance

65. Cooperation and Assistance is a key element of the Convention engrained in Article 6. At the Third Review Conference, the States Parties reaffirmed that while each State Party is responsible for the implementation of 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 Third Review Conference, a Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance was established to address this important element of the Convention.

66. Since the Third 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 towards the 2025 aspirational deadline of the States Parties. In addition, as highlighted in the Maputo Action Plan, States Parties seeking to receive assistance can implement measures to facilitate cooperation and assistance including developing inclusive strategies and work plans, disseminating clear and detailed information on their financial and technical requirements for assistance and actively promoting the implementation of their commitments under the Convention in national and international conversations.

67. Since the Third Review Conference States Parties have continued to express that national ownership continues to have a central role in fostering cooperation and assistance. At the Third 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

recognised 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.

68. Since the Third Review Conference, a number of States Parties have continued demonstrating a high level of national ownership through the development of national strategies and plans, reporting on progress made and remaining challenges as well as through the provision of significant financial contributions to the implementation of their commitments under the Convention. Still in other cases, States Parties have seized an opportunity to demonstrate higher levels of national ownership by ensuring the development of inclusive national strategies and work plans for completion and, where possible, providing increased national resources to meeting their commitments under the Convention.

69. 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 [...] engaging regularly in a dialogue on progress and challenges in meeting goals.” Since the Third 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. Since the Third Review Conference, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance has launched the “Individualised Approach” which aims to facilitate a platform for individual affected states to provide – on a voluntary, informal basis – detailed information on the challenges they face and their 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 clearance 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 in the individualised approach - Angola, Croatia, Ecuador, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe.

70. In 2018, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation held consultations with a wide range of actors including those States that participated in the Individualised Approach (IA) to receive feedback and continue improving the process. Some of the key conclusions included the following:

- (a) The IA is a valuable complement to the work of the Convention and offers an important platform for States Parties to share their progress and challenges with States and organisations and to share their needs for cooperation and assistance;
- (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 has proven extremely valuable;
- (e) The IA cannot replace a lively and robust national dialogue but should complement it.

71. At the 22-24 May 2019 intersessional meetings, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance highlighted the importance of increased dialogue in order to ensure that the States Parties, as a community, make significant progress towards achieving the 2025 ambitions of the States Parties and to do so in an inclusive, effective and efficient manner. In this regard, and in complement to the Individualised Approach, the Committee

recognised the importance of considering permanent in-country platforms to enable a regular dialogue on implementation and challenges between all stakeholders at a national level. To support States Parties in this regard, the Committee presented a paper providing a sample model for the establishment of National Mine Action Platforms (NMAP). 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 States Parties' respective deadlines as soon as possible.

72. Since the Third Review Conference, the Landmine Monitor has recorded from 2014-2017 funding to mine action from donors at approximately USD1.9 billion with an upsurge in funding in 2017 (430.7 million (2014), 376.5 million (2015), 482.9 million (2016), 673.2 million (2017)) emphasising that a small number of countries receive the majority of funding (65%) including Iraq, Syria, Colombia, Afghanistan and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

73. 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 Third Review Conference, victim assistance national stakeholder dialogues have been held in Iraq, South Sudan 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 recognised by participants. The stakeholder dialogues succeeded in gathering stakeholders and provided a 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 ways in which cooperation and assistance could be strengthened through improved reporting, planning and coordination. In addition to these dialogues, a Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Other Explosive Remnants of War, and Disability rights was held in Amman, Jordan, on 10-12 September 2019. The Conference sought to provide national disability rights and victim assistance experts, decision makers and persons with disabilities including mine survivors, with opportunities to further explore challenges and good practices in aligning victim assistance efforts with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

74. Since the Third Review Conference, the States Parties have continued to highlight the importance of high-quality national mine action strategies and work plans to foster cooperation and assistance. The States Parties have further indicated that strategies and work plans should include concrete and costed milestones based on "relevant and accurate information on contamination and the socio-economic impact of anti-personnel 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". Since the Third Review Conference, a number of States Parties including Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey and Zimbabwe have launched and/or reviewed National Strategies for implementation of their commitments under the Convention, with the support of national and/or international partners.

75. In recognition of the pivotal role of mine action in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, since the Third Review Conference, States Parties have been encouraged to make efforts to promote the inclusion of mine action into ongoing development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit resource mobilization efforts. Since the Third Review Conference, UNDP and the GICHD have made efforts to raise awareness in various fora of the relevance of mine action to other sectors to promote cooperation.

76. The States Parties continue to recognise that addressing the needs and guaranteeing the rights of mine victims requires a long-term commitment through sustained political, financial and material resources to improve broader healthcare, social and economic support services, in line with donor development priorities as appropriate. States Parties continue to recognise the importance of collaboration with wider health, human rights, disability and development systems to address the needs of victims in an efficient, effective and sustainable fashion as well as the importance of cooperation between disarmament instruments which have victim assistance responsibilities to highlight relevant, mutually beneficial opportunities and ensure that activities are mutually reinforcing.

77. 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 Third Review Conference, a number of exchange visits to share expertise and other cooperation efforts between mine-affected States Parties have taken place. An example of this are the many delegations that have visited Cambodia to learn about the application of land release methodologies and best practices including from, for example, Colombia. These exchanges between States Parties implementing Article 5 contribute to the efficient implementation of the Convention.

78. In addition to this, since the Third Review Conference in some cases mine clearance cooperation has been carried out by States Parties that, for example, share a common border. An example of this is the cooperative work carried out by Ecuador and Peru and by Cambodia and Thailand in areas along the common border. In this regard, the implementation of Article 5 can contribute to security and confidence building measures between States Parties. Furthermore, in the past five years, mine clearance has also been considered as a component of peace agreements, for example in Colombia, which highlight the importance of mine clearance as a tangible contribution to support peace efforts.

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. A more coordinated effort will be required by States in a position to provide assistance to support States Parties that have demonstrated a high level of national ownership and who have put forth clear plans to address their remaining challenges. As highlighted in Action 21 of the Maputo Action Plan, this support should be provided in a way that partnerships ensure a clear definition of responsibilities with parties being accountable to one another, the setting of clear measurable targets and a regular dialogue throughout implementation and, where possible, multiyear commitments.

VIII. Measures to ensure compliance

80. The States Parties had previously acknowledged that the primary responsibility for ensuring compliance rests with each individual State Party. 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 Third Review Conference, there were 63 States Parties that had reported that they had adopted legislation in the context of article 9 obligations and that there were 37 States Parties that had reported that they considered existing national laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention. The remaining 61 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 Third Review Conference:

(a) Three States Parties – Oman, Sri Lanka and the State of Palestine – acceded to the Convention. Oman indicated that it adopted legislation in accordance with Article 9. Sri Lanka and the State Palestine have not yet indicated having adopted legislation or that they consider existing laws to be sufficient in the context of Article 9;

(b) Eight States Parties indicated that they have adopted legislation in accordance with Article 9 – Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Fiji, Finland, Kenya, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Sudan;

(c) Three States Parties indicated that they consider existing laws to be sufficient: Angola, Côte d’Ivoire and Thailand.

83. There are now 72 States Parties that have reported that they have adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations, and 38 States Parties that had reported that they consider existing national laws to be sufficient to give effect to the Convention. The remaining 54 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 Third Review Conference, subsequent Presidents of the Convention have communicated with these States Parties to draw their attention to this outstanding obligation and encourage reporting on this matter as soon as possible. In the Maputo Action Plan, States Parties committed to address this matter ahead of the Fourth Review Conference.

84. 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 Third Review Conference, States Parties have emphasised the importance of continuing to condemn any use of anti-personnel mines by any actor to ensure that the stigmatization of the use of anti-personnel mines remains strong.

85. At the Third 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 to assist States Parties to work together in the Convention’s traditional spirit of cooperation. Since the Third Review Conference, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance has considered 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 to provide updates on their investigations and on national circumstances preventing investigations, as well as on their engagement in the work

of the Convention. The Committee has welcomed the continuous engagement of these States. One State Party – South Sudan – has investigated the allegations and concluded that the allegations were not credible and that the area in question is likely to be free from landmine contamination. In view of the information received from South Sudan, the Committee recommended to the States Parties not to further pursue the examination of the allegations. The remaining cases have indicated that security remains the challenge in addressing the allegations but indicated that they will continue communicating with the Committee and the States Parties on their efforts in this regard.

86. Since the Third Review Conference, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance has established a continuous and open dialogue with civil society concerning cases of alleged use of anti-personnel mines. The Committee has met regularly with Human Rights Watch and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines to discuss allegations of use of mines.

87. While the cases of alleged non-compliance by a State Party with Article 1.1 of the Convention are rare, the States Parties are determined to remain vigilant to ensure that the norms of the Convention are upheld by all. Likewise, some States Parties have highlighted the need to ensure that States Parties comply in full with all the obligations of the Convention including carrying out mine clearance, as soon as possible.

IX. Transparency and the exchange of information

88. At the Third Review Conference, the States Parties recognised that transparency and the open exchange of information, through both formal and informal 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.

89. 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, for those with a responsibility for a high number of survivors and for those that are in the process of implementing Article 9.

90. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the States Parties adopted a Guide to Reporting¹⁰ 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. 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.¹¹ Since the Third Review Conference, 20 of the 32 States Parties implementing Article 5 that submitted reports employed all or elements of the Guide to Reporting. The Committees on Article 5 Implementation and Victim Assistance of the Convention have continued encouraging States to employ the Guide to Reporting to ensure clarity on the status of implementation.

91. 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

¹⁰ Guide to Reporting, APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.2.

¹¹ Final Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties, APLC/MSP.15/2016/10, paragraph 37.

Parties to discuss challenges reported on the 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.

92. As a result of consultations, the Committee on Victim Assistance developed the *Guidance on Victim 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 Third Review Conference, almost half of the relevant States Parties have submitted comprehensive reports on victim assistance.

93. At the Third 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 Third Review Conference, all 161 States Parties that had ratified or acceded to the Convention had submitted initial transparency information in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention had done so. The only exceptions were Oman and Tuvalu. Since the Third 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 have submitted an initial transparency report as required.

94. At the Third Review Conference, it was also agreed that “States Parties without implementation obligations will make use of the simplified tools for fulfilling their Article 7 obligations.” In 2019, of the 45 States Parties without implementation obligations, 13 made use of the simplified tool for fulfilling their Article 7 obligations.

95. Since the Third Review Conference, the overall reporting rate has been below 50 percent. However, among mine-affected countries implementing core obligations of the Convention, reporting rates have increased. The States Parties have noted that an online reporting tool option, as proposed by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, may support States Parties in their reporting efforts.

96. 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.

97. Since the Third Review Conference, States Parties have agreed that renewed attention will need to be given to the ongoing fulfilment of transparency obligations. The Committees of the Convention have all indicated the importance of transparency and the exchange of information for the fulfilment of their mandates. The Committees have focused part of their work on promoting improvements and the strengthening of transparency and exchange of information by States Parties.

X. Implementation support

Implementation Support Unit

98. The Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties adopted a number of measures to strengthen the financial governance and transparency of the ISU. Some of the important measures taken include the adoption of a multi-annual work plan for the ISU, establishment of a financial security buffer, the establishment of an annual pledging conference for support

to the work of the ISU and the management of expenditures related to core support and of the financial security buffer. These measures were captured in the “Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU” adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

99. At the Third 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. Since the Third Review Conference annually, approximately 27 States Parties have supported the work of Implementation Support Unit.

100. The ISU continues to report regularly and in accordance with the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” as well as with other decisions of the States Parties. In accordance with the decision of the 14MSP, quarterly reports have been submitted by the ISU to the Coordinating Committee on the activities and finances of the ISU.

101. The States Parties annually recognised the important support function provided by the ISU to the President, the Committees, the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator, to individual States Parties as well as to others and consistently called for States Parties to continue their support to the ISU.

102. Since the Third Review Conference, through financial support provided by Switzerland, the ISU continued to be hosted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, ensuring that there was no cost to the States Parties associated with the logistical and administrative support to the ISU.

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 Third Review Conference, the States Parties agreed to hold annual Meetings of the States Parties until the Fourth Review Conference.

104. 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 Crombrughe, Ambassador and Permanent Representative 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. Heraldo Muñoz Valenzuela Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile (represented by H.E. Marta Mauras, Ambassador and Permanent Representative 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 and Permanent Representative 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, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Fourth Review Conference was held in Oslo, Norway from 25 – 29 November 2019 and presided over by Hans Brattskar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

105. Since the Third 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 the implementation of the mandate of the President, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Committee on Victim Assistance, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. These reports measured

annual progress made by States Parties in the pursuit of the Convention's core aims between Meetings of the States Parties, highlighting relevant actions of the Maputo Action Plan, and highlighting priority areas of work for the States Parties, the Committees and the President. 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.

106. Since the Third Review Conference, Meetings of the States Parties have hosted a number of panel discussions including a high level session on Victim Assistance during the 14MSP, a panel on Comprehensive Mine Action and Peace: Cooperation towards a Mine Free World during the 15MSP, a panel on 20 Years of Success: Fulfilling the Promise of the Convention by 2025 and a panel on "Keeping people at the heart of the Convention: Effective Victim Assistance" at the 16MSP. These panels offered an opportunity for States Parties to reflect on important matters concerning the implementation of the Convention.

107. Since the Third Review Conference, the Convention has faced challenges caused by non-payment and late payment of assessed contributions by States as well as by the structure of the financial arrangements for the Convention. These structural issues have forced the States Parties to take a number of cost-cutting measures, including undesirable measures such as reducing the number of meeting days due to insufficient funds to hold meetings as planned. Since 2016 a number of measures have been established in the context of the Convention to ensure the financial predictability and sustainability including the inclusion of a contingency line in cost estimates and measures related to timely payment and non-payment of contributions as well as cost-cutting measures on an ad-hoc basis. The President of the Fourth Review Conference presented a report and recommendations containing a number of actions to be adopted by the Fourth Review Conference.

Intersessional Meetings

108. Since the Third Review Conference, the States Parties have continued to hold intersessional meetings between Meetings of the States Parties. Since the Third 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 Third Review Conference, thematic panels have been introduced to address pertinent issues related to the Convention's implementation, including a thematic discussion on "Partnerships: State of Play" during the June 2015 intersessional meetings, "Achieving Completion: A Mine Free World by 2025: the last stretch" during the May 2016 Intersessional meetings, "Meeting on Aspirations of 2025" during the June 2017 intersessional meetings and "Implementation of Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention" during the June 2018 intersessional meetings. The intersessional meetings on 22-24 May 2019 included a full day of informal thematic discussions on current challenges to implementation of the Convention, including mine clearance and completion deadlines; new use of anti-personnel mines and national reporting; risk education and protection of civilians; victim assistance; integrating a gender perspective in mine action; and cooperation and assistance.

109. Since the Third Review Conference, the intersessional meetings have been held over a period of 2 days offering an opportunity for States Parties to provide updates on their implementation efforts. 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 to hold bilateral meetings with national mine action directors in Geneva.

110. Since the Third Review Conference, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining has continued to host the intersessional meetings with financial

support from Switzerland, thus ensuring that there was no cost to the States Parties associated with the organisation of these meetings.

Coordinating Committee

111. At the Third 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 Third Review Conference, the Coordinating Committee met eight to ten times per year to fulfil its mandate. Throughout this period, the Coordinating Committee maintained its historic practice of involving the ICBL, the ICRC, and 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.

112. The States Parties continued to note the important work of the Convention's Committees in supporting the Convention's implementation. In particular, since the Third Review Conference, the collaboration between the Committees and implementing States Parties has strengthened, ensuring a greater flow of information between States Parties implementing commitments under the Convention and Convention's machinery.

Sponsorship Programme

113. Since the Third Review Conference, the Sponsorship Programme has continued to permit widespread representation at meetings of the Convention. The States Parties have continued to recognise 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.

114. During each year from 2014-2018, the informal Sponsorship Programme supported the participation of an average of 17 delegates representing an average of 16 States at each set of intersessional meetings or to each Meeting of the States Parties. Sponsorship funding has continued to decrease over the years but has retained steady support from a few States Parties.

115. Since the Third Review Conference, the Sponsorship Programme has encouraged States Parties to consider gender and diversity in the composition of their delegations. However, States Parties note that a disproportionate number of the persons sponsored have been male.

Participation of other actors

116. The States Parties continued to recognise 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 organisations, mine survivors and their organisations, mine clearance operators and other civil society organisations. The States Parties 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.

117. Since the Third Review Conference, the Convention's implementation machinery has taken a more individual country-focused approach, engaging on a one on one basis with representatives of States Parties and of organisations working in States Parties. The importance of interaction with and coordination by all stakeholders supporting States Parties in implementing their obligations in country, including mine clearance operators as well as actors involved in supporting and promoting the rights of mine victims and persons with

disabilities, has increasingly been recognised. This will be an essential element in the continued successful implementation of the Convention.
