

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

30 November 2023

Original: English

Twenty-First Meeting
Geneva, 20-24 November 2023

Final report

I. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction provides in Article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2, that the States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention. At the Fourth Review Conference (Oslo, Norway, 26-29 November 2019), the States Parties agreed 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.¹

2. The Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (Geneva, Switzerland, 21-25 November 2022) agreed to hold the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland, the week of 20-24 November 2023, and to elect Ambassador Thomas Göbel, Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament, President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties.

3. To prepare for the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, in keeping with past practice, a provisional agenda and a provisional programme of work were made available at the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings of the Convention. To seek views on matters of substance and organization of work, an informal meeting was also convened on 18 September 2023 to which all States Parties, States not party, and interested organizations were invited to participate.

II. Organization of the Meeting

4. The Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties was opened on 20 November 2023 by Ambassador Thomas Göbel of Germany, President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties. A high-level ceremonial opening ceremony featured a musical performance by the Nürnberg Symphony Orchestra (Germany), and messages by the Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office, Ms. Katja Keul; the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu; the Humanity & Inclusion Ambassador, Ms. Emilie Vath, on behalf of the mine victims and survivors; the Convention's Special Envoy, HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad Bin Zeid Al Hussein of Jordan; the permanent representative of Belgium, Ambassador Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve, on behalf of the Convention's Special Envoy, HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium; the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Dr. Gilles Carbonnier; the mine action fellow from Sri Lanka, Ms. Nimaya Dahanayake, on behalf of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL); and the President of the Council of

¹ Final document, APLC/CONF/2019/5, paragraph 34 (i).



Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Dr. Barbara Hearing.

5. A thematic panel entitled “More Effective Cooperation Between Mine-Affected and Supporting States Parties: The Individualised Approach in Context” was held on 20 November 2023 with the participation of the President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, Ms. Camilla Dannevig from Norway, and Mr. Patawee Treekarunasawad from Thailand. The panel highlighted the importance of the strengthening of cooperation and assistance and ensuring that the mechanisms of the Convention support the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention.

6. At the first plenary session, on 20 November 2023, the Meeting adopted its agenda, as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/1, and its programme of work, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/2. The Meeting also unanimously confirmed the observer status of the organizations, participating under rule 1.4 of the Rules of Procedure².

7. Also at the first plenary session, France, Iraq, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, and Uganda were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of Ambassador Julien Thöni, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament, as Secretary-General of the Meeting. The Meeting also took note of the appointment, by the United Nations Secretary-General, of Mr. Peter Kolarov, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva Branch, as Executive Secretary of the Meeting, and of the appointment, by the President, of Mr. Juan Carlos Ruan, Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), as the President’s Executive Coordinator.

III. Participation in the Meeting

8. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules of procedure, the following States Parties participated in the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte D’Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

9. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules of procedure, the following States participated in the Meeting as observers: Armenia, Azerbaijan, India, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and United States of America.

10. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Rules of procedure, the following international organizations and institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as observers: European Union (EU), GICHD, ICBL-CMC, ICRC, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), ISU of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Organization of American States (OAS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

² APLC/MSP.8/2007/5

11. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 4, of the Rules of procedure, the following other organizations attended the Meeting as observers: APOPO, Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) James Madison University, Cleared Ground Demining, Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOS), International Trust Fund – Enhancing Human Security (ITF), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), Swiss Mine Action Foundation (FSD), and The HALO Trust.

12. A list of all delegations and delegates to the Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/INF.1.

IV. Work of the Meeting

13. The Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties held ten plenary sessions between 20 and 24 November 2023. During the first and the ninth plenary sessions, States Parties and observer delegations delivered statements of a general nature.

14. At the second and tenth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered requests for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas, submitted pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention. The States Parties that submitted requests for extensions in accordance with Article 5, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Convention, Eritrea and Ukraine, presented their requests, which are contained in documents APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.10 and APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.8, respectively. In addition, France, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation presented observations and analyses relating to the requests by Eritrea and Ukraine³ for extensions of their Article 5 deadlines.

15. During its third through ninth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the general status and operation of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention’s goals and in the application of the Oslo Action Plan 2019 – 2024, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/12 “Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Progress Report 2022-2023”, and APLC/MSP.21/2023/13 “Oslo Action Plan: Status of Implementation”.

16. At the third and fourth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance. In particular, Uganda, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as Slovenia, as the Committee’s Gender Focal Point reported of the Committee’s “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024”, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/8. Updates on progress and challenges were provided by States Parties implementing victim assistance commitments on their efforts to fulfil obligations and on the steps they have taken to implement the victim assistance actions of the Oslo Action Plan, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

17. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance, the Meeting noted the persistent challenges in the implementation of victim assistance including those related to the lack of financial means and highlighted the importance of continued support to victim assistance and making continued progress in integrating victim assistance 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. Slovenia, as incoming Chair, presented the priorities of the Committee for 2024.

18. At the third and fourth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. In particular, France, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as Colombia, as Committee’s Gender Focal Point, reported on the Committee’s “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024”, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/7. Updates were provided by States Parties that are still in the process

³ APLC/MSP.21/2023/6.

of clearing mined areas pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

19. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Meeting noted the persistent challenges associated with implementation, including the need to maintain and increase financial resources for implementation, the need to ensure the continued improvement of applied methodologies and the need to ensure that States Parties gain clarity on remaining contamination and address this contamination as soon as possible in line with the States Parties' ambitions of progressing in implementation, to the fullest extent possible, by 2025. The Meeting emphasized the importance of States Parties continuing to implement and report on their implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

20. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Meeting noted the challenges posed by the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and noted the paper titled "Anti-Personnel Mine of an improvised nature and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention", submitted by the President, as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/5. The Meeting also noted the importance of taking into consideration environmental and climate change considerations in Convention's implementation efforts and considered the paper titled "Green Implementation: Integrating Environmental Considerations into the Implementation of the Convention", presented by the President, as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/16. Colombia, as incoming Chair, presented the priorities of the Committee for 2024.

21. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention and pursuant to the relevant decision of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties inviting the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to assess the Article 5 extension request process and challenges, based on the previously adopted decisions by States Parties and, taking into consideration other relevant documents on this matter, determine whether there would be a common ground for strengthening the process, including the considerations of all relevant stakeholders in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner, in particular mine affected States⁴, the Meeting considered the report by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on "Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention - Extension Request Process", as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/15.

22. At the sixth and eighth plenary session, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. In particular, Thailand, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as the Netherlands, as Committee's Gender Focal Point, reported on the Committee's "Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024", as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/9. States Parties and other interested States and organisations provided views on cooperation and assistance.

23. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, the Meeting noted the importance of States Parties making full use of the tools available to the States Parties, such as the Individualized Approach, to share challenges and requirements for support. The Meeting further noted the importance of the application of the relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan, such as the establishment of national mine action platforms, to foster cooperation and assistance and support the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention by States Parties as soon as possible. The Meeting noted the importance of States Parties strengthening cooperation on implementation in line with the Oslo Action Plan. Algeria, as incoming Chair, presented the priorities of the Committee for 2024.

24. At the seventh plenary session, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. In particular, the President, in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as Norway, as Committee's Gender Focal Point, reported on the Committee's "Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024", as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/10. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen, as well as by other interested States and organisations. The Meeting took note of the updates by the States Parties concerned and welcomed their commitment to

⁴ APLC/MSP.20/2022/15, paragraph 103.

address the outstanding issues as soon as possible and to continue the cooperative dialogue with the Committee on Cooperative Compliance

25. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, the Meeting noted the importance of continued transparency in the implementation of the Convention and noted the importance of the obligation to submit transparency reports in line with Article 7 of the Convention highlighting progress in implementation of their Convention obligations in line with the Oslo Action Plan. The Meeting noted the critical nature of this aspect of the Convention to ensure the success of collective implementation efforts. The Meeting further noted the importance of relevant States Parties ensuring the establishment of national implementation measures in accordance with Article 9.

26. Also in the context of the consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting discussed progress made and persistent challenges that remain in destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines. In particular, the President reported on the status of implementation of Article 4 obligations. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, Greece and Ukraine, as well as by interested organisations.

27. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the States Parties recognized the importance of States Parties which are in non-compliance with Article 4 of the Convention, Greece and Ukraine, addressing challenges in implementation, presenting a time-bound plan for completion, and proceeding with implementation as soon as possible in a transparent manner, regularly informing States Parties on progress made and remaining challenges in accordance with the Oslo Action Plan.

28. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed actions that have been undertaken since the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties in the pursuit of the universalization of the Convention. In particular, the President reported on activities aimed at the universalization of the Convention, as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/11, titled “Activities and Priorities for Implementation for 2023-2024”. Updates were provided by States Parties, States not party, as well as by interested organisations.

29. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting noted that universalization is a responsibility of all States Parties and highlighted the importance of sustainable actions on universalization. The Meeting further noted the importance of putting forth concerted efforts to ensure an increase in the number of States Parties in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference and strengthening the norms of the Convention.

30. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed the transparency reporting responsibilities of the States Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention. The Meeting noted that the reporting rate remains low and reiterated the importance of States Parties with no obligations under the Convention making use of the simplified tools created by the States Parties to facilitate reporting, including the on-line reporting tool. The Meeting noted the importance of the States Parties adhering to Article 7 of the Convention and the relevant commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.

31. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” and the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”⁵, which instructed the ISU to propose and present every year a work plan and detailed yearly budget for the ensuing year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval, the Meeting considered the “Implementation Support Unit 2024 Budget and Work Plan”, presented by the Director of the ISU and endorsed by the Coordinating Committee, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/4.

⁵ APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.1.

32. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, in recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, which tasked the ISU to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties and to submit an audited annual financial report for the previous year and a preliminary annual financial report for the present year to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting considered the “Activities, functioning and finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit, Interim Report, 1 January 2023 – 1 October 2023”, presented by the Director of the ISU, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/3, as well as the “Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2022”, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/17.

33. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decision on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting noted that any surplus funding following the closure of accounts should be allotted to the financial security buffer to ensure that it remains at the level equivalent to one year of expenditures related to core support as provided for in the ISU yearly budget.

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

35. Also in the context of the consideration of the the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting considered the report of the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator, Australia, on the Sponsorship Programme. The Meeting noted the appeal of the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator to all States Parties to consider supporting the Programme to ensure the broadest possible participation in the 2024 Intersessional Meetings and the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties and its preparatory meetings. The Meeting noted that continuing to give mine-affected States Parties a strong voice in the future direction of the Convention through the Sponsorship Programme is critical.

V. Decisions and Recommendations

36. The Meeting reaffirmed the determination of the States Parties to the Convention to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, including anti-personnel mines of improvised nature, and their commitment to strengthen their efforts in order to achieve their common goal of a mine-free world and the full and equal inclusion of survivors and victims. In keeping with the Oslo Action Plan, the Meeting strongly condemned the use of anti-personnel mines anywhere, at any time, and by any actor, including by non-State armed groups.

37. In the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention and reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention’s aims and in the application of the Oslo Action Plan 2019-2024, the Meeting warmly welcomed the “Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Progress Report 2022-2023”, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/12, and the “Oslo Action Plan: Status of Implementation”, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/13, as important means to support the application of the Oslo Action Plan by measuring progress made since the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties and highlighting priority areas of work in the period between the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties and the Fifth Review Conference, as well as providing an updated baseline value for all indicators of the Oslo Action Plan based on the data reported in the third year of implementation. The Meeting recognized the importance of the States Parties intensifying their implementation efforts towards the Fifth Review Conference in 2024.

38. In the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting took note of the activities by the President and the Universalization Coordination Group (UCG), established by the President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, to

promote the universalization of the Convention and its norms, and emphasized the need to strengthening coordination and continuity of universalization activities ahead of the Fifth Review Conference. The President further highlighted the invitation to and agreement of Belgium to support the Presidency as co-coordinator of the UCG in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference.

39. The Meeting took note that no additional accessions to the Convention have taken place since 2017. The Meeting called upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

40. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that report on the implementation of Victim Assistance commitments as well as the “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024” by the Committee on Victim Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/8. The Meeting expressed particular concern about continued casualties caused by anti-personnel mines and the importance of working to address the needs and rights of mine victims in all parts of the world.

41. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that have Article 5 obligations as well as the “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024” by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/7.

42. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the paper on “Anti-Personnel Mine of an improvised nature and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention”, submitted by the President, as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/5 and took note of the recommendations contained therein⁶.

43. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the paper on “Green Implementation: Integrating Environmental Considerations into the Implementation of the Convention”, presented by the President, as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/16, and decided to further explore how to best ensure that environmental and climate change considerations are integrated into the Convention’s implementation into the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference.

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

45. Decisions 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 Meeting assessed the request submitted by Eritrea for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extended deadline until 31 December 2024.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Eritrea had not provided updated information on implementation of its Article 5 obligations since its last extension request was granted by the Fourth Review Conference. The Meeting also noted that Eritrea has not complied with the decision of the Fourth Review Conference on Eritrea’s request for extension. The Meeting further noted that the fact that Eritrea has not submitted updated information on implementation since it submitted its request for extension in 2019 is a matter of concern. The Meeting noted that Eritrea reported on the circumstances which prevented Eritrea from acting on the decision of the Fourth Review Conference.
- iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Eritrea had not acted in accordance with the agreed “process for the preparation, submission and

⁶ APLC/MSP.21/2023/5, chapter III.

consideration of requests for extensions to Article 5 deadlines”, which was established at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, preventing the Committee on Article 5 Implementation from carrying out its mandate to “prepare and submit to the States Parties in advance of Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences an analysis of each request for an Article 5 extended deadline”.

- iv. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed Eritrea’s commitment in Eritrea’s request for extension to adhere to the process established by the States Parties and submit a request by 31 March 2024 for consideration by the Fifth Review Conference. The Meeting further noted that the submission of Eritrea’s request by 31 March 2024 will permit a cooperative dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to take place, as envisaged by the extension request process.
- v. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted that Eritrea would benefit from seeking assistance from the Convention’s Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in the preparation of its request, including by inviting the ISU for an in-country visit, in order to ensure that Eritrea benefits from support in the development of its extension request in line with lessons learned and decisions of the States Parties concerning requests for extension.
- vi. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Eritrea keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of implementation of its obligations under Article 5 at intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties/Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.

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

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Ukraine for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 December 2033.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the continued unprecedented circumstances faced by Ukraine in its efforts to implement the decision of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination and fulfil its obligations under Article 5 during the extension period. The Meeting further noted Ukraine’s continued commitment to strengthen and increase its capacity to implement its commitments under Article 5 of the Convention.
- iii. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted, in line with the recommendation of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation⁷ which takes into account recommendations and best practices welcomed by the States Parties, in particular the identified “value of States Parties requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward looking plan based on this information, and then submitting a second request containing plans based on a clearer understanding of the extent of the challenge and which project with greater certainty the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation”⁸, the commitment of Ukraine to present to the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the States Parties in 2028 a detailed overview of the national situation including a) the progress made since the granting of its

⁷ “Analysis of the request submitted by Ukraine for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention” APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.4.

⁸ “Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process” APLC/MSP.12/2012/4.

request for extension; b) the remaining challenge, and; c) the plan to address this challenge by the 1 December 2033 deadline.

- iv. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies, and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Ukraine in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impact outlined by Ukraine in its request are addressed as effectively as possible.
- v. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of Ukraine reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination. The Meeting also noted the importance of Ukraine reporting 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).
- vi. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.
- vii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Ukraine would benefit from developing as soon as possible a resource mobilisation strategy. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Ukraine strengthening national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of Ukraine's obligations under the Convention.
- viii. In granting the request, the Meeting, in noting the volatility of the present situation in Ukraine and the need for Ukraine to adjust its work plan, noted that the Convention would benefit from Ukraine submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2024, and each subsequent year, an updated detailed work plan containing, amongst other: a) an updated list of all identified mined areas in accordance with IMAS (i.e. disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination (e.g. anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, explosive remnants of war etc..); b) annual projections of the areas where survey and clearance efforts will take place by which organisations and the methodologies to be employed; c) annual plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities and methodologies to be employed; d) how priorities have been established, and; e) a detailed budget for implementation.
- ix. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted that the detailed work plan should also contain information on how Ukraine ensures consideration for gender, age, disability and takes the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in its implementation efforts.
- x. In granting the request the Meeting further noted that the successful implementation of Article 5 by Ukraine is contingent on access to the remaining contaminated areas, the need for stable national funding and the mobilization of international financial and technical resources, and engagement with international stakeholders. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ukraine reporting in its annual

Article 7 transparency report annually, by 30 April, the information required as per the Guide for Reporting.⁹

- xi. In granting the request the Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine reporting on the matters noted above as well as keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 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.

47. In the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting recalled the establishment by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties of a process for extension requests submitted under Article 5¹⁰ and the importance of adhering to this process. The Meeting also recalled the endorsement at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties of the recommendations contained in the “Reflections on the Extension Request Process” paper¹¹ and encouraged States Parties, as appropriate, to continue implementing these recommendations. In particular, the Meeting recalled that late submissions of requests impede the efforts of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation by limiting opportunities for interaction between the Committee and requesting States Parties and resulting in some analyses being completed much later than they normally should have been, thus affecting the ability of all States Parties to engage in a cooperative dialogue as envisioned by the process. Against this background the Meeting reiterated the importance of timely submission of the extension requests, in accordance with the established process.

48. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting took note of document APLC/MSP.21/2023/15 titled “Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention - Extension Request process” and welcomed the recommendations contained therein. The States Parties further decided to continue exploring how to strengthen the Article 5 process, including how to best implement these recommendations in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference, and taking into account other documents on this matter.

49. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates on cooperation and assistance provided by States Parties and organisations, as well as the “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023” by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/9. The Committee updated the States Parties on the status of the Cooperation and Assistance Fund and indicated that the first use of the Fund is now on track to support a study/exchange visit.

⁹ Including:

- a. Progress and results of survey and clearance activities, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information 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) and how additional clarity obtained may have altered Ukraine’s assessment of the remaining challenge;
- b. Progress and results in implementation of mine risk education and reduction activities, the challenges faced, and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
- c. The remaining challenge, disaggregating by ‘suspected hazardous areas’ and ‘confirmed hazardous areas’ and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination (e.g. anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, explosive remnants of war etc...);
- d. An updated work plan based on new evidence containing clear milestones, including information as highlighted in numeral 9 of the decision;
- e. Updates on the steps taken by Ukraine to ensure the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation;
- f. Updates on the socio-economic impact of mined areas, including casualty data disaggregated by geographic location of the accident, age, gender, and disability;
- g. Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts (e.g. the development of a resource mobilisation plan), including resources made available from Ukraine’s state budget and external financing received to support its annual work plan, potential gaps in funding, as well as equipment and other technical resources that could be potentially filled by the international community.

¹⁰ APLC/MSP.7/2006/5.

¹¹ APLC/MSP.12/2012/4.

50. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the information provided by Greece concerning the status of destruction of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines, noting the partial transfer and destruction of remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with the plan put in place by Greece, as well as the information provided by Ukraine concerning the status of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines. 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.

51. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting emphasised the importance of all States Parties reporting updated information annually in accordance with Article 7. The Meeting encouraged States Parties to make use of the tools developed to facilitate reporting, including the Guide to Reporting¹², the on-line reporting tool, as well as to seek the support of the Implementation Support Unit in the preparation of their reports.

52. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” and the relevant decision by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting approved the “Implementation Support Unit 2024 Budget and Work Plan”, as endorsed by the Coordinating Committee and as contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/4. In the context of the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, the Meeting also approved the “Activities, functioning and finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit, Interim Report, 1 January 2023 – 1 October 2023”, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/3, as well as the “Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2022”, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/17.

53. The Meeting further noted the importance of ensuring continuous support by the ISU to the work of the Convention in particular so as to not disrupt the preparations of the Fifth Review Conference and agreed to extend the term of the current Director of the Implementation Support Unit until 30 April 2025.

54. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ relevant decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting commended the German presidency for organising, on 24 March 2023, a successful pledging conference for the implementation of the Convention.

55. In the context of considering the financial status of assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties, the Meeting noted with concern the continuing unstable financial situation due to late payment and arrears of assessed contributions and underlined the importance to ensure compliance by all States Parties with their Article 14 obligations. The Meeting requested the States Parties and observer States participating in the meetings of the States Parties to proceed promptly with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment invoices have been received.

56. The Meeting requested the United Nations and the Implementation Support Unit to continue their efforts in raising awareness and ensuring transparency on the status of contributions on a monthly basis by making information available and sending periodic reminders.

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

(a) Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Colombia and Sweden (until the end of the Fifth Review Conference), Thailand and the United Kingdom (until the end of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties);

¹² APLC/MSP.19/2021/14.

(b) Committee on Victim Assistance: Slovenia and Zambia (until the end of the Fifth Review Conference), Burkina Faso and the Netherlands (until the end of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties);

(c) Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: Algeria and Japan (until the end of the Fifth Review Conference), Türkiye and Denmark (until the end of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties);

(d) Committee on Cooperative Compliance: Norway and South Africa (until the end of the Fifth Review Conference), Germany and Peru (until the end of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties).

58. The Meeting agreed to set the dates of the Intersessional Meetings for 18-20 June 2024.

59. The Meeting agreed to hold the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties in Siem Reap, Cambodia, the week of 25-29 November 2024 and to elect the Senior Minister and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), Dr. Ly Thuch, as the President of the Fifth Review Conference. The Meeting further agreed to hold in Geneva, Switzerland, the First Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference, on 21 June 2024, and the Second Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference, on 18 September 2024.

60. The Meeting further decided to hold the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties end of November – beginning of December 2025¹³, and to elect Ambassador Tomiko Ichikawa, Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, as the President of the Twenty-Second Meeting. The Meeting adopted the estimated costs of the Twenty-Second Meeting, as contained in APLC/MSP.21/2023/14/Rev.1.

61. The Meeting further decided to elect Ambassador Eunice Tembo Luambia, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations in Geneva, as the President of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties.

VI. Documentation

62. A list of documents of the Twenty-First Meeting is contained in the annex to this report.

VII. Adoption of the final report

63. At its final plenary session, on 24 November 2023, the Meeting adopted its final report.

¹³ Subject to availability of conference space.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.21/2023/1	Provisional agenda. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.21/2023/2	Provisional programme of work. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.21/2023/3	Activities, functioning and finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Interim Report, 1 January 2023 – 1 October 2023. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.21/2023/4	Implementation Support Unit 2024 Budget and Work Plan. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.21/2023/5	Anti-Personnel Mine of an improvised nature and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
APLC/MSP.21/2023/6	Analysis of the request submitted by Ukraine for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.21/2023/7	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.21/2023/8	Activities and Priorities for Implementation for 2023-2024. Submitted by the Committee on Victim Assistance
APLC/MSP.21/2023/9	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024. Submitted by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
APLC/MSP.21/2023/10	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2023-2024. Submitted by the Committee on Cooperative Compliance
APLC/MSP.21/2023/11	Activities and Priorities for Implementation for 2023-2024. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.21/2023/12	Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Progress Report 2022-2023
APLC/MSP.21/2023/13	Oslo Action Plan – Status of Implementation
APLC/MSP.21/2023/14/Rev.1	Estimated costs for the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction. Submitted by the Secretariat
APLC/MSP.21/2023/15	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention - Extension Request process. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.21/2023/16	President's Paper for the Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Green Implementation: Integrating Environmental Considerations into the Implementation of the Convention
APLC/MSP.21/2023/17	Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2022
APLC/MSP.21/2023/18	Final report
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.1	Updated Work Plan. Submitted by Cambodia
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.2	Updated Work Plan. Submitted by Colombia
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.3	Updated Work Plan. Submitted by Mauritania
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.4	Updated Work Plan. Submitted by Nigeria
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.5	Updated Work Plan. Submitted by Senegal

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.6	Updated Work Plan. Submitted by Somalia
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.7	Updated work plan. Submitted by Türkiye
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.8	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 Ukraine
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.9	Updated Work Plan. Submitted by Iraq
APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.10	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by Eritrea
APLC/MSP.21/2023/L.1	Draft Decision on Eritrea
APLC/MSP.21/2023/L.2	Draft Decision on Ukraine
APLC/MSP.21/2023/MISC.1	Provisional list of participants
APLC/MSP.21/2023/INF.1	List of Participants
APLC/MSP.21/2023/CRP.1	Draft Final report
