
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

15 December 2015

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Fourteenth Meeting

Geneva, 30 November - 4 December 2015

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 Third Review Conference (Maputo, 23-27 June 2014), the States Parties 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 Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties will be held in Geneva during the week of November 30 to 4 December 2015.¹

2. To prepare for the Fourteenth Meeting, in keeping with past practice, a provisional agenda was presented at the 25-26 June 2015 informal intersessional meetings of the Convention. Based upon discussions at that meeting, it was the conclusion of the President that this document was generally acceptable to the States Parties to be put before the Fourteenth Meeting for adoption. To seek views on matters of substance, the President convened five informal meetings in Geneva in October-November 2015 to which all States Parties, States not parties and interested organizations were invited to participate.

II. Organization of the Meeting

3. The Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties was opened on 30 November 2015 by Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations Office at Geneva and President of the Meeting.²

4. A high level opening ceremony during the first plenary session, on 30 November 2015, featured statements by H.R.H. Princes Astrid of Belgium; the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of Belgium, Didier Reynders; the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Michael Møller; the Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Christine Beerli; the Deputy State Secretary of Switzerland, Georges Martin; the Director

¹ APLC/CONF/2014/4, paragraph 31.

² APLC/CONF/2014/4, paragraph 30.



of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC), Megan Burke; and the President of the Council of the Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Barbara Haering.

5. At the same first plenary session, the Fourteenth Meeting adopted its agenda, as contained in document APLC/MSP.14/2015/1/Rev.1, and its programme of work, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/3.

6. Also at the same first plenary session, Afghanistan, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Poland, and Zambia were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Fourteenth Meeting. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of Ambassador Urs Schmid of Switzerland as Secretary-General of the Meeting. The Meeting 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 (UNODA) as Executive Secretary of the Meeting, and the appointment, by the President, of Juan Carlos Ruan, Acting Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), as the President's Executive Coordinator.

III. Participation in the Meeting

7. The following States Parties participated in the Meeting: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

8. The following delegations participated in the Meeting as observers, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Meeting: China, India, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and United States of America.

9. 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, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Organization of American States (OAS), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

10. 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: Center for International Stabilization and Recovery, The HALO Trust,

International Trust Fund – Enhancing Human Security (ITF), and Mines Advisory Group (MAG).

11. A list of all delegations and delegates to the Fourteenth Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.14/2015/INF.1.

IV. Work of the Meeting

12. The Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties held nine plenary sessions from 30 November to 4 December 2015. During the second plenary session, on 30 November 2015, a high-level session on victim assistance was held with the participation of H.R.H. Princess Astrid of Belgium; Didier Reynders, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of Belgium; Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugge of Belgium, President of the Meeting; Jan Matthyssen, Adviser to Princess Astrid; Margaret Arach Orech, Director of Uganda Landmine Survivors Association; Luz Dary Landazury, Campaigner for the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines; Mohammad Hussain Ahmadi, Peer Supporter at the Afghan Landmine Survivors Organization; Wiboonrat Chanchoo, Head of Landmine Survivors and People with Disabilities in Pan-Suk Sub district, Sa Kaeo Province, Thailand; Luis Wamusse, National Coordinator of Mozambican Landmine Survivors Assistance Network; Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gomez, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica; Catalina Devandas Aguilar, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Facundo Chavez Penillas, Advisor on Human Rights and Disabilities, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Julio Bravo, Director of International and Human Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile; and Juan Carlos Ruan, Acting Director of the Implementation Support Unit.

13. At the second, third and eighth plenary sessions, the States Parties that had submitted requests for extensions in accordance with articles 5 (3) and 5 (4) of the Convention, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, presented their requests, the executive summaries of which are contained in documents APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.3, APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.5, APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.7, APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.8, and APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.10, respectively. In addition, Poland, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation presented analyses and/or observations relating to each request for extension to Article 5 deadline, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.1, APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.4, APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.6, APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.9, and APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.11.

14. At the third plenary session, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. In particular, the Chair of the Committee presented the report on the Committee's work as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/7 to APLC/MSP.14/2015/31. Updates were provided by States Parties that have recently completed or are still in the process of clearing mined areas pursuant to article 5 of the Convention.

15. During its fourth through eighth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered 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. The Meeting addressed the advances that had been made since the Third Review Conference in the pursuit of the universalization of the Convention. The Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, and the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. Costa Rica, Indonesia, and the President, in their capacity as the Chairs of the Committee on Victim Assistance, the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, and the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, respectively, presented the

reports on the Committees' work, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/6, APLC/MSP.14/2015/4, and APLC/MSP.14/2015/5, respectively.

16. On 3 December 2015, the Meeting marked the International Day of persons with disabilities. Catalina Devandas Aguilar, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was invited to address the Meeting and presented the range of activities scheduled to mark the International Day. The President underlined the common purpose pursued by the States Parties to the Convention and the Special Rapporteur.

17. Also in the context of the consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting discussed progress made and challenges that remain in destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines and considered, in particular, document APLC/MSP.14/2015/2 as presented by the President.

18. 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. In particular, the President presented the "Guide to Reporting", as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.2, to serve as a comprehensive tool for assisting States Parties in the fulfilment of their article 7 reporting obligations.

19. At the seventh plenary session the Meeting addressed administrative and financial issues related to the work and the financial situation of the ISU and considered "Draft decisions with regard to strengthening the financial governance and transparency within the ISU", presented by the President, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.1 and APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.12, as well as the "Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2016-2019", presented by the President, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.13.

20. Also in the context of the consideration of the administrative and financial issues related to the work and the financial situation of the ISU and 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 State 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 an "Interim report on the 2015 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit" presented by the Acting Director of the ISU, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.16, the "Report of the auditor on the expenditures and revenues statement of the Trust Fund for Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention", as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/MISC.1, as well as the "Implementation Support Unit 2016 Budget, submitted by the Acting Director of the ISU, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.15.

21. Also in the context of the consideration of the administrative and financial issues related to the work and the financial situation of the ISU, the Meeting addressed the issue of the selection of a new ISU Director and considered "Draft Decision on the selection procedure for the recruitment of a new ISU Director and on principles of future recruitment", as well as a Vacancy announcement, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.2 and APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.14, respectively.

22. Also in the context of the consideration of the administrative and financial issues related to the work and the financial situation of the ISU, the Meeting considered the Report of the Sponsorship Coordinator on the Sponsorship Programme. The Meeting noted the urgent need for more States Parties, which are in a position to do so, to invest in this Programme in 2016, to ensure broad participation in the 2016 informal intersessional meetings in Geneva and in the Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties in Santiago, Chile. 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

23. In the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and its universalization, the Meeting noted with appreciation the accession to the Convention, after the Third Review Conference, by Oman, on 20 August 2014. The Meeting called upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

24. In keeping with the Maputo Declaration the Meeting condemned the use of antipersonnel mines by any actor.

25. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that had indicated being responsible for significant numbers of landmine survivors, as well as the activity report of the Committee on Victim Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/6, and took note of the conclusions contained therein. In particular, the Meeting reconfirmed the States Parties' commitment to further strengthen and advance victim assistance, meet the needs and guarantee the rights of mine victims.

26. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and taking into account the analyses 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:

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

(a) The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Cyprus for an extension of Cyprus's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined area in accordance with Article 5(1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 July 2019.

(b) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that as in its initial request for extension of its 1 July 2013 deadline Cyprus has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes the ability of Cyprus to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that Cyprus has indicated that it does not have effective control over the remaining areas in question. The Meeting 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 affected the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.

B. 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

(a) The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extension of Ethiopia's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined area in accordance with Article 5(1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 June 2020. In granting the request, the States Parties noted that Ethiopia has been non-compliant with respect to its Article 5(1) obligations since 1 June 2015. The States Parties expressed that the failure of Ethiopia to complete implementation of Article 5 by 1 June 2015 or to have requested and received an extension on its deadline prior to that date represents a matter of serious concern.

(b) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that while it may be unfortunate that after almost eleven years after entry into force a State Party is unable to specify how much work remains to be carried out, it is positive that Ethiopia intends to renew efforts to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and develop plans accordingly. In this regard the Meeting noted the importance of the United Nation's International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS, in emphasising that evidence is required in order to define an area as either "suspected hazardous area" (i.e., an area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines) or "confirmed hazardous area" (i.e., an area known to contain anti-personnel mines).

(c) In granting the request, the Meeting, in noting that Ethiopia has provided a detailed work plan in its request up until the end of 2017 and noting its commitment to submit an updated plan by April 2017, noted that it would be beneficial if Ethiopia would submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2017, an updated work plan including an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and a detailed budget.

(d) Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while the plan presented by Ethiopia is workable, ambitious and lends itself well to be monitored its success is contingent upon findings of survey efforts, stable funding and challenges posed by the security situation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ethiopia reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- (i) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in section 14 of its extension request;
- (ii) Outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ethiopia's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
- (iii) Updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in terms of suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas in line with the International Mine Action Standards;
- (iv) Update on the development of plans to carry out survey activities on the Eritrean/ Ethiopian border;
- (v) Resource mobilization efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Ethiopia to support implementation, and efforts to attract international mine action operators or advisors to offer technical support to Ethiopia;
- (vi) Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

(e) Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that annual benchmarks for progress contained in the request would greatly assist Ethiopia and all States Parties in assessing progress made in implementation during the extension period. In this context, the Meeting requested Ethiopia to provide updates relative to these benchmarks at informal intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences.

(f) In the context of the seriousness regarding non-compliance by Ethiopia with respect to its obligations under Article 5(1), the States Parties agreed to continue working collectively in a spirit of cooperation to correct this situation and to prevent it from occurring in the future.

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

(a) The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Mauritania for an extension of Mauritania's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined area in accordance with Article 5(1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 January 2021.

(b) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Mauritania has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes the ability of Mauritania to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is the fact that a "safety device along the border with Western Sahara, composed of fortifications and minefields" may in some instance be located inside Mauritanian territory but that ambiguity concerning the exact location of Mauritania's northern border makes it difficult to ascertain this fact.

(c) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Mauritania has indicated that over the extension period it intends to initiate and maintain a dialogue with stakeholders aiming at the acquisition of relevant topographic and cartographic information and if necessary develop a plan to address any identified area within its jurisdiction.

(d) The Meeting noted that the States Parties would benefit if Mauritania provided, by the 30 April 2016 and annually after that, information on these dialogues and information on progress concerning the acquisition of information on the exact location of its northern border and developments of plans to address identified areas.

(e) In this context, the Meeting requested Mauritania to provide updates relative to progress at informal intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences.

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

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

(b) The Meeting expressed concern that Niger 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 Meeting expressed regret in particular that the late submission of a request by Niger did not permit the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to carry out their mandate to analyse the request.

(c) The Meeting noted that in order to function appropriately this process requires requests to be submitted nine months prior to the meeting during which they would be considered in order for an analysis of the request to be prepared and for a cooperative exchange between the requesting State and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to take place. In this context, the Meeting noted that Niger and the Convention as a whole would benefit from a full extension request process taking place, and agreed to grant Niger a one year extension until 31 December 2016. In addition, the Meeting requested that Niger submit a request, in accordance with the established process, by 31 March 2016, in order for Niger and the States Parties to benefit from a cooperative exchange on the request.

(d) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Niger in its present request is workable but lacks ambition. The Meeting further indicated that Niger could find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time indicated in its present request and that doing so could benefit both the Convention and Niger itself.

(e) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Niger had made great efforts to comply with the commitments it had made in 2013 to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and to report annually on progress, the present request does not contain a detailed annual work plan for clearance leading to completion with benchmarks for progress which would assist Niger and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. In this regard, the Meeting noted that it would be beneficial if Niger would submit to the States Parties, in its 31 March 2016 request, an updated work plan containing an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request.

(f) Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger taking into consideration the observations of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation namely that Niger provide information on:

(i) The number, location and size of the remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by released through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey;

(ii) External financing received and resources made available by the Government of Niger to support implementation; and

(iii) Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

(g) Also in granting the request, the Meeting requested Niger to provide an update on the progress in meeting completion of its Article 5 obligations at the 2016 informal Intersessional Meetings.

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

(a) The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Senegal for an extension of Senegal's 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 2021.

(b) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Senegal had largely sought to comply with the commitments it had made in 2008 to have a clearer knowledge of size and location of areas that will still warrant clearance including by technical surveys and developing a cancellation procedure, the full extent of the remaining challenge remains to be clarified and a detailed annual work plan for survey and clearance leading to completion and based on accurate and coherent data is still missing.

(c) In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Senegal was projecting that approximately five years to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas would be necessary. The Meeting noted that, given that the implementation of the work plan is contingent upon further survey, the Meeting requested that Senegal submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2017, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Meeting requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisations, and a detailed budget.

(d) In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of the United Nations International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS, in emphasising that evidence is

required in order to define an area as either “suspected hazardous area” (i.e., an area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines or “confirmed hazardous areas” (i.e., an area known to contain anti-personnel mines). In this regard, the Meeting noted that Senegal’s adherence to IMAS guidance on this matter could provide greater clarity concerning the remaining challenge in Senegal.

(e) Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that while the plan presented by Senegal is contingent upon findings of survey efforts, stable funding and challenges posed by the security situation. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Senegal reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- (i) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in section 4 of its extension request;
- (ii) Outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Senegal’s understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
- (iii) The number, location and size of remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey;
- (iv) Resource mobilization efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Senegal to support implementation;
- (v) Updates on the developments of the peace process dialogue which may lead to new areas becoming accessible for survey and clearance activities;
- (vi) Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

(f) Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that annual benchmarks for progress contained in the request would greatly assist Senegal and all States Parties in assessing progress made in implementation during the extension period. In this context, the Meeting requested Senegal to provide updates relative to these benchmarks at informal intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences.

27. The Meeting received information on the part of Ukraine in relation to unprecedented challenges in the field of clearing areas contaminated by anti-personnel landmines, caused by aggression and activities of illegal armed groups. The country therefore does not currently have access to some mined areas and this situation is set to continue under the pressure of the conflict. Nevertheless, Ukraine emphasized that it was fully aware of the need for strict compliance with the obligations under the Convention and notified its intention to seek an extension of the period of Ukraine’s implementation of article 5. The official, duly compiled, request would be soon submitted to the States Parties for their consideration. The Meeting welcomed that information and stated its full readiness to proceed with the examination of the announced extension request in the shortest possible time.

28. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the report of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, as contained in APLC/MSP.13/2013/7 to APLC/MSP.14/2015/31, which also cover updates on the progress in the implementation of article 5 by States Parties, and took note of the conclusions contained therein. In particular, the Meeting noted with appreciation the declaration of completion of article 5 mine clearance obligations submitted by Mozambique, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/MISC.2.

29. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the report of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/4, and took note of the conclusions contained therein. The Meeting welcomed the recommendations contained in the Committee's report, as follows:

(a) States Parties intensify bilateral cooperation efforts, among other aspects, by enhancing the quality of the information provided by both sides;

(b) States Parties intensify regional and international cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, South-South cooperation, public-private partnerships and by sharing national experiences, best practices, resources, and technology to implement the Convention;

(c) States Parties make use of the Platform for Partnership. States Parties in a position to render cooperation and assistance are urged to provide information to the Platform for Partnerships;

(d) States Parties identify ways to increase the efficiency of international assistance projects (e.g. through better use of existing tools, improved donor-operator-recipient coordination);

(e) States Parties increase their understanding of how to enable local/national authorities to more rapidly assume the responsibility in mine-action to make better use of limited available assistance;

(f) States Parties make use of the chapter on Cooperation and Assistance included in the Guide to Reporting.

30. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting expressed agreement with the way the Committee implemented its mandate, welcomed the activity report of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/5, and took note of the observations contained therein. The Meeting expressed concern about the allegations of use of anti-personnel mines in different parts of the world. The Meeting reaffirmed the determination of the States Parties to the Convention to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by these weapons.

31. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the announcement made by Finland on the completion of its article 4 obligations before the established deadline. The Meeting welcomed the updates provided by States Parties on the implementation of actions #5 to #7 of the Maputo Action Plan, in particular by the States Parties that have missed the deadline for the completion of their respective article 4 obligations, Belarus, Greece and Ukraine, and the Report on the status of implementation of article 4 (stockpile destruction), as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/2, and took note of the conclusions contained therein. The Meeting appealed to the States Parties which have missed the deadline for the completion of their article 4 obligations to intensify efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.

32. With regard to the initiative on article 7 transparency reporting, the Meeting approved the "Guide to reporting", as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.2, emphasizing the benefits that could be obtained in conforming to it and therefore strongly urged its use by the States Parties in implementing their article 7 obligations.

33. In the context of considering the administrative and financial issues, the Meeting approved the Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.1. Recognizing the desire by a number of States parties to further explore additional models of financing the ISU over the mid- and

long-term, the Meeting requested the President to conduct a dialogue, drawing on financial models being used to support other relevant instruments and ISUs.

34. Also in the context of considering the administrative and financial issues, the Meeting approved the "Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2016-2019" and the "Implementation Support Unit 2016 budget", as contained in APLC/MSP.13/2013/WP.13 and APLC/MSP.13/2013/WP.15 respectively. In the context of the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU", the Meeting also approved the "Interim report on the 2015 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit", contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.16, and the ISU's 2014 audited financial statement, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/Misc.1.

35. Also in the context of considering the administrative and financial issues, and with a view to identify possible ways to enhance efficiency and further reduce costs, the Meeting requested the Presidency to conduct informal administrative consultations with the Presidents of other relevant instruments and with the Heads of other relevant ISU's. The Presidency is requested to report on opportunities for cost-savings through cooperation as soon as practical but not later than at the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

36. Also in the context of considering the administrative and financial issues, the Meeting expressed its warmest appreciation to the first Director of the ISU, Kerry Brinkert, for his tireless efforts, excellent support and advice he has provided throughout the years of his tenure to the successive Presidents and other office holders of the Convention and to the States Parties and wished him success in his new endeavour. The Meeting likewise expressed its gratitude to the Acting Director of the ISU, Juan Carlos Ruan, for his readiness to ensure continuity in difficult circumstances.

37. The Meeting adopted the "Decision on a selection procedure for the recruitment of a new ISU Director and on principles for future recruitments", as well as the "Vacancy announcement" for the position of an ISU Director, as contained in annex I and APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.14, respectively. The Meeting also decided that the Selection Panel for the recruitment of the new ISU Director will consist of the following States Parties: Lithuania, Mexico, Sweden, Thailand, and Zambia. The following States Parties will serve as surrogates: Colombia, Malaysia, Nigeria, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

38. 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:

- Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Ireland and Ecuador (until the conclusion of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties), Costa Rica and Zambia (until the conclusion of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties);
- Committee on Cooperative Compliance: Algeria and Canada (until the conclusion of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties), Sweden and Peru (until the conclusion of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties);
- Committee on Victim Assistance: Thailand and Senegal (until the conclusion of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties), Colombia and Belgium (until the conclusion of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties);
- Committee on Enhancing Cooperation and Assistance: Mexico and Switzerland (until the conclusion of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties), Uganda and the Netherlands (until the conclusion of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties).

39. The Conference agreed to hold the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties in Santiago, Chile, from 28 November to 2 December 2016 and adopted its estimated costs, as contained in APLC/MSP.14/2015/32. The Meeting further agreed to elect the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, President of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties, with his term running from the conclusion of the Fourteenth Meeting until the conclusion of the Fifteenth Meeting, as per the relevant decision of the Third Review Conference. The Conference further noted with appreciation the offer made by Austria to preside over the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017.

40. The Meeting agreed to set the dates of 2016 informal intersessional meetings for 19 and 20 May in Geneva. 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 on-going support to the informal intersessional meetings.

VI. Documentation

41. A list of documents of the Fourteenth Meeting is contained in annex II to this report.

VII. Adoption of the Final Report

42. At its final plenary session, on 4 December 2015, the Meeting adopted its report, as contained in document APLC/MSP.14/2015/CRP.1, as orally amended.

Annex I

Decision on a selection procedure for the recruitment of a new ISU Director and on principles for future recruitments

Considering the importance of the function and the need to proceed in a transparent and objective manner, the Meeting of States Parties hereby decides:

I. To set up a procedure for the recruitment of a new Director for the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) as follows:

1. A selection panel is to be established with the mandate to shortlist and interview candidates and to make a recommendation to the States Parties on the appointment to be made.
2. The selection panel will consist of five members and four surrogate members, all representatives to the Convention and preferably based in Geneva. In composing the panel, due consideration will be given to gender balance, geographical background and profile (affected and non-affected States Parties). The Convention's Presidency shall not be a member of the selection panel. Once established the selection panel will appoint a chair among its members.
3. Candidates for the selection panel are reminded of the fact that the selection of a new director will require their professional time especially in the period February to June 2016.
4. Announcement of the vacancy based on agreed terms will take place at the closure of the 14th Meeting of States Parties. Candidatures will have to be submitted by 15 February 2016. The shortlisting, the interviews and the report will be readied in time for a decision to be taken through a silence procedure or at the latest at the intersessional meeting of 2016.
5. In case a member of the selection panel would experience a conflict of interest with regard to a certain candidate, the said member will withdraw and be replaced by a surrogate member. To the extent possible the balance with regard to gender, geographical background and profile should be maintained.
6. The selection panel will draft a report ranking the three top candidates in an order of preference. It will report on the interviews it has conducted and duly explain the motivations for the ranking it has arrived at, emphasizing how the competences of the respective candidates correspond to the requirement of the function. The report shall remain confidential within the selection panel as long as the procedure is running. The selection panel will only communicate the candidate it has ranked first to the Convention's Presidency.
7. The Presidency will propose that candidate for approval by the States. The Presidency can revert to a silence procedure. The response time will be at most two weeks. If no consensus is reached, the Presidency will turn to the selection panel to be given the name of the candidate ranked second and seek consensus on that basis. If necessary, the candidate ranked third is offered to the States Parties.
8. After designation of the ISU Director, the report of the selection panel will be made available to the members of the Coordinating Committee.

9. The candidate will be recruited for a fixed term of 4 years, renewable once only for another fixed term of 4 years with the approval of the States Parties. The description of the function and the level of remuneration are mentioned in the vacancy notice. The salary is a fixed salary. Adjustments to the salary due to local inflation or seniority are only allowed with the approval of the Coordinating Committee.

10. The vacancy shall be published on the APMBC Web Site and made available at no cost for the ISU to UN bulletin boards. States Parties shall be solicited to disseminate the vacancy among their own nationals.

11. The GICHD agrees to assist in the administration of the selection process without costs to the States Parties.

II. With regard to future recruitments for the ISU, to adopt the following principles:

1. All ISU staff members recruited in future, including the Director, shall be employed on fixed-salary contracts using the GICHD salary scale as a possible guide. When recruiting new ISU staff members the first step on the identified salary scale will be used as the starting salary.

2. Adjustments to the salary due to local inflation or seniority are only allowed with the approval of the Coordinating Committee.

3. When recruiting new ISU staff members due consideration shall be given to the need for a balance between recruiting staff members with the right competencies and experience to fulfil the functions expected from them and maintaining a financially prudent policy aiming at containing the overall staff costs for the ISU at a sustainable level. Due consideration shall also be given to the need for geographical balance within the ISU.

Annex II

List of Documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.14/2015/1/Rev.1	Revised Provisional Agenda. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.14/2015/2	The status of implementation of article 4 (stockpile destruction) of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. Conclusions of the President of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.14/2015/3	Provisional programme of work. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.14/2015/4	Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. Submitted by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
APLC/MSP.14/2015/5	Activity report and observations and conclusions of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.14/2015/6	Activity report and conclusions of the Committee on Victim Assistance. Submitted by the Committee on Victim Assistance
APLC/MSP.14/2015/7	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/8	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Afghanistan. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/9	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Algeria. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/10	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Argentina. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/11	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/12	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Cambodia. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.14/2015/13	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Chad. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/14	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Chile. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/15	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Colombia. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/16	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Croatia. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/16/Corr.1 [English only]	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Croatia. Corrigendum. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/17	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Cyprus. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/17/Corr.1	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Cyprus. Corrigendum. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/18	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Ecuador. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/19	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Ethiopia. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/20	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Iraq. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/21	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Mauritania. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/22	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Peru. Submitted by the Committee on

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
	Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/23	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Senegal. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/24	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Serbia. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/25	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by South Sudan. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/26	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Sudan. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/27	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Tajikistan. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/28	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Thailand. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/29	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Turkey. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/30	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/31	Report and conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Conclusions on the implementation of article 5 by Zimbabwe. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/32	Estimated costs for the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction
APLC/MSP.14/2015/33	Final Report
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.1	Analysis of the request submitted by Cyprus 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

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
	5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.2	Draft Guide to reporting. Submitted by the president
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.3	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Mauritania
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.4	Analysis of the request submitted by Mauritania 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.14/2015/WP.5	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Senegal
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.6	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. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.7	Request for 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/MSP.14/2015/WP.8	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Cyprus
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.9	Analysis of the request submitted by Senegal 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.14/2015/WP.10	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Niger
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.11	Observations on the request submitted by the Republic of Niger under Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.12	Draft paragraph on exploring the potential for cost-savings through cooperation
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.13	Implementation Support Unit Work plan and budget 2016-2019
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.14	Vacancy announcement

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.15	Implementation Support Unit Work 2016 budget
APLC/MSP.14/2015/WP.16	Interim report on the 2015 activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.1	Draft decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU
APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.2	Draft decision on a selection procedure for the recruitment of a new ISU Director and on principles for future recruitments
APLC/MSP.14/2015/MISC.1	Trust Fund ISU APMBC
APLC/MSP.14/2015/MISC.2	Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Submitted by Mozambique
APLC/MSP.14/2015/MISC.3	Provisional List of participants
APLC/MSP.14/2015/MISC.3	Declaration in relation with the completion of the Article 4 obligations. Submitted by Finland
APLC/MSP.14/2015/CRP.1	Draft Final report
APLC/MSP.14/2015/INF.1	List of participants
