

Second Meeting  
Geneva, 11-15 September 2000

PRESIDENT'S PAPER ON REVISIONS TO THE  
INTERSESSIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

**Background:**

At the First Meeting of the States Parties (FMSP), it was decided that the President's Paper on Intersessional Work (annex IV of the Final Report (APLC/MSP.1/1999/1) of 20 May 1999) would guide the intersessional work. In terms of this decision, informal open-ended Standing Committees of Experts (SCEs) were established to focus on the following themes:

- Mine clearance;
- Victim assistance, socio-economic reintegration and mine awareness;
- Stockpile destruction;
- Technologies for mine action;
- General status and operation of the Convention.

It was further decided that the SCEs could meet on, at least, an annual basis.

The SCEs' work programmes for 1999 and 2000 were organized in five periods of meetings in September and December 1999, January, March and May 2000. This work programme, together with the annual Meeting of the States Parties, meant that six periods of meetings were held to promote and facilitate the implementation of mine action in the context of the obligations of the Convention.

Although the work programme of the SCEs succeeded in facilitating and supporting the effective functioning of the Convention, the extensive work programme, to a certain degree, constrained participation in, and the efficient organization of, the work of the SCEs.

At the 10-11 January 2000 meeting of the SCE on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, the experience with the first meetings of the SCEs was discussed. The need for streamlining the work of the SCEs was identified as well as the importance of broadening the participation in the work of the Committees. At this meeting, it was recommended that the Co-Chairs of this SCE carry out consultations with the objective of formulating concrete suggestions on how the intersessional work programme could be adjusted.

In this regard and in addition to various consultations, an informal open-ended consultation session was held at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in Geneva on 10 April 2000, to which States Parties, other States, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were invited.

As a result of these consultations the Co-Chairs of the SCE understood that there was a strong consensus in favour of streamlining the post-Second Meeting of the States Parties (SMSP) intersessional work programme. To this end, a series of recommendations were drafted and accepted at the 29-30 May 2000 meeting of the SCE. These recommendations are as follows:

1. Duration of meetings

As opposed to the current six periods of meetings, totalling six weeks in duration, it was recommended that only three periods of meetings be held annually, including the Meeting of the States Parties. That is, each SCE shall meet twice between Meetings of the States Parties, once during an initial week-long session of meetings in November or December 2000 and once during a week-long session of meetings in May 2001.

2. Number of SCEs

In the interest of promoting efficiency, directly related themes should be merged into one SCE. It was, therefore, recommended that the SCEs for mine clearance and technologies for mine action be combined into one SCE. Therefore, there would be four SCEs as follows:

- Mine clearance and related technologies (meeting for 1.5 days during each of the

- two week-long sessions of meetings);
- Victim assistance, socio-economic reintegration and mine awareness (meeting for 1.5 days during each of the two week-long sessions of meetings);
- Stockpile destruction (meeting for one day during each of the two week-long sessions of meetings);
- General status and operation of the Convention (meeting for one day during each of the two week-long sessions of meetings).

### 3. Language of proceedings

To further enhance active participation in the work of the SCEs, it was recommended that those States in a position to do so consider making voluntary contributions to have additional languages made available for the intersessional meetings.

### 4. Dates of meetings

It was recommended that the first of the two week-long sessions of meetings take place 4-8 December 2000. It was further recommended that the second of the two week-long sessions of meetings take place 7-11 May 2001.

For example:

Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6	Dec.7	Dec. 8
Victim Assistance	Victim Assistance (a.m.) / Mine Clearance and Related Technologies (p.m.)	Mine Clearance and Related Technologies	Stockpile Destruction	General Status and Operation

### 5. Role of Co-Chairs

It was recommended that Co-Chairs seek, as appropriate, the ongoing support and advice of past Co-Chairs.

### 6. Name Change

It was recommended that what has been to date known as *Standing Committees of Experts* now be referred to as *Standing Committees*.

## 7. Co-Chairs and Rapporteurs

As a result of consultations, it was recommended that the following States Parties serve as Co-Chairs and rapporteurs between the SMSP and the end of the Third Meeting of the States Parties:

Committee	Co-Chairs	Rapporteurs
Mine Clearance and Related Technologies	Netherlands Peru	Germany Yemen
Victim Assistance, Socio-Economic Reintegration and Mine Awareness	Japan Nicaragua	Canada Honduras
Stockpile Destruction	Malaysia Slovak Republic	Australia Croatia
General Status and Operation	Belgium Zimbabwe	Norway Thailand

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