

**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 September 2006

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Seventh Meeting

Geneva, 18 – 22 September 2006

Item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the general status and
operation of the Convention:**

(a) Clearing mined areas

**INFORMATION PROVIDED BY STATES PARTIES ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 IN THE CONTEXT OF QUESTIONS
POSED BY THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MINE CLEARANCE, MINE RISK EDUCATION AND
MINE ACTION TECHNOLOGIES¹**

Presented by Jordan and Slovenia

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Information provided by States Parties on the implementation of Article 5 in the context of questions posed by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies

Jordan and Slovenia

15 September 2006

State Party	Plan ²	Progress ³	Remaining work ⁴	Impeding circumstances ⁵	Means dedicated ⁶	National ownership / local capacity ⁷	Priorities for assistance ⁸
Afghanistan		Afghanistan completed the first nationwide landmine impact survey last year. Its results will help the MAPA to better prioritize land that needs to be cleared. The MAPA will now be able to measure its success not only in terms of square metres cleared or devices destroyed but also by the direct impact and benefit to communities. The MAPA has decreased the number of high and medium			The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan started in 1990 and has since expanded to include more than a dozen partner organisations which employ more than 10,000 Afghans.		

² What is your State's plan to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control as soon as possible?

³ What progress has been made in the implementation of your State's national demining programme since the last time that an update was provided to the Standing Committee?

⁴ What work remains in order for your State to be in compliance with its obligation to have destroyed or ensured the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control?

⁵ What, if any, circumstances may impede the ability of your State to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control within ten years after entry into force of the Convention for your State? What is the prospective end-date for your State to have fully implemented Article 5?

⁶ What financial and technical means has your State dedicated to ensuring the fulfillment of your State's Article 5 obligations?

⁷ If mine action in your country is largely managed and conducted by foreign non-governmental organizations and / or international organizations, to what extent has national ownership and local capacity development been accelerated?

⁸ What, if any, are your priorities for external assistance to support your State's fulfillment of its Article 5 obligations?

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		impacted communities found in the initial survey through a combination of clearance, markings and mine risk education. During the last 16 months the MAPA was able to lower the impact of mines and UXO in 211 communities and the mines and UXO problems of 57 communities has been completely addressed. Last year, the MAPA reached an important milestone by clearing its one billionth square metre of land, the number of victims in Afghanistan has dropped to 70-100 per month.					
Albania	In accordance with Action #19 of the Nairobi Action Plan, Albania developed a Plan for completion which will enable Albania to meet its clearance deadline and clear all high and medium impact by the end of 2006 and clear all other known areas by 2009. These objectives are achievable assuming that needed funding will be provided.	To date more than 12 million square metres, or more that three quarters of the total affected area, have been released through clearance and surveys.	Another 3.2 million square metres remain to be cleared to ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas.		Albania has provided national resources through the Ministry of Defence by providing free of charge explosive materials and medical evacuations service by helicopter.	One of the main objectives of the Albanian Programme is also building local capacities for demining and victim's assistance and good progress has been made in this regard so far, as reported in a previous session.	
Algeria	Algeria is currently elaborating with the UNDP a mine action project which will enable the country, through a comprehensive impact	In the period between the last Standing Committee meetings and 31 March 2006, the army discovered and destroyed 113,880 anti-personnel mines in	So far Algeria found and destroyed 190,858 anti-personnel mines, of the estimated 3,064,180 laid in its Eastern and Western borders.	The following parameters may affect Algeria's effort to eradicate anti-personnel mines: • Shortage of protection and detection	Mine clearance operations are funded by the Algerian Government and carried out by the National Army.	See previous column.	• Small technical equipment (mine sweepers, earth moving equipments and detectors especially for home made mines which contain very

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	survey, to draft a national strategic plan which would include demining. So far, Algeria had conducted demining operations according to the following principles: to continue with operations started in 1963, to clear some strategic areas which had been mined by the Algerian army in the fight against terrorism and to destroy anti-personnel mines wherever their existence was confirmed.	addition to the destruction of 10,996 mines laid by the Algerian army during the last decade.		equipment. • Displacement of mines due to erosion and wind. • High temperatures which make work difficult. • Difficult terrain in some areas. • Lack of funding. But, Algeria believes that the most significant challenge it has to address is how to carry out in a good manner its clearance operations in order to fulfil its Article 5 obligations in a timely manner.			little or no metal at all.). • Protective equipment (suits, hand protectors, visors and boots).
Angola		In 2005, Angola elaborated a National Strategic Plan for Mine Action (2006-2011). About 14,262,596 square metres of mined areas and 668 kilometres of roads were cleared.	Angola indicated that, in 2006, it intended to consolidate the extension of CNIDAH at the provincial level, to implement IMSMA, to reinforce the adoption of all mine action standards, to complete the Landmine Impact Survey, and to support the development and operational capacity of INAD and its Central Mine Action Training School.				
Argentina	The United Kingdom's and Argentinean Governments will carry out a feasibility study by means of a Joint Argentine-British Working Party to assess the costs and risks of options considered technically feasible and it will	At the Fifth Meeting of the Joint Working Party, and following the recommended measures of the Nairobi Plan of Action, Argentina and the UK agreed to use the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) as the base to					

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	include a cost-benefit analysis of the clearance activities, establishing an order of preference among the options.	achieve the International Standards for Mine Action (IMAS) requirements, in accordance with the Exchange of Notes of 2001. At the Sixth Meeting both delegations continued to make progress on financial, legal and technical aspects of the Feasibility Study and to move forward on several tasks ahead of the Seventh Meeting. They also agreed to recommend to the two Governments that they should extend the scope of the Exchange of Notes of 2001 under the sovereignty formula, through the conclusion of an agreement to include Unexploded Ordnance that might remain inside the mine fields. At the Seventh Meeting and last meeting to date of the Joint Working Party, held in Buenos Aires in March 2006, both delegations continued to negotiate a way forward on the legal and technical aspects of the Feasibility Study aiming to complete a joint survey visit to the Falkland Islands during the austral summer of 2006/2007. Both					

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		delegations agreed to work intersessionally on the contractual aspects of the study and a draft statement of requirements.					
Bosnia and Herzegovina	In 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to do 52% more demining than in 2005, covering an area of 16.7 million square metres, with 8.8 million square metres of technical survey and 5 million square metres of clearance. 35 square kilometres of suspected areas are planned to be permanently marked. Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the process of mainstreaming mine action into development programme in order to access additional financial resources.	2005 was one of the most successful mine action years in Bosnia and Herzegovina and also was the first year of implementation of the new National Mine Action Strategy, a document founded on a better comprehension of the constant gap between the real size of the mine threat and financial and other means to deal with that threat and a better task assessment and planning system. The following achievements can be recorded for 2005: • mine affected territory was reduced of a further 158.1 square kilometres. • 25 integrated mine action projects for endangered communities with high level mine threat were implemented and resulted in a decrease of the mine threat for these communities. • Emphasis was placed on community liaison which became the real connection between communities and their needs on one side and, priority-setting system for mine action		The size of the mine affected area and still too much reliance on international donor funds.	In 2005, around 8.8 million euros came out of the mine action budgets of different government levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The country's annual financial investment for mine action grows every year although the biggest part (63%) is still supported by the international donor community.		

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		activities on the other. • The marking programme continued although not to the projected level.					
Burundi							
Cambodia							
Chad	Chad developed a national strategic plan which indicates that all mine-affected regions would be demined by 2009 with the exception of the Tibesti region for which a 6-year extension would be required.	In 2005/2006, partial clearance of the Wadi Doum airfield and the Fada town and region were carried out. In total, 4 400 000 square metres were released and 985 anti-personnel mines destroyed.	Less than 10 square kilometres, of 1081 affected square kilometres, have been cleared. In addition, new minefields have been discovered in the Borkou region.	Insufficient financial resources dedicated to the execution of Chad's national plan and an unstable politico-military situation which prevents access to certain mine-affected areas.	The Government of Chad allocates approximately 1 million \$US each year to the National High Commission for Demining, it also integrated the national plan in the Chad's Poverty Reduction Strategy and finances this strategy with oil revenues.		Funding is required in priority for: the clearance of N'Djamena and to restart the clearance operations which were suspended in December 2005 around Wadi Doum and Fada.
Chile	Chile has a National Mine Action Plan since 2002 which covers all the necessary activities to remove and destroy mines laid in Chile. In addition to this national plan, national directives are issued each year to give concrete directions to actions that need to be carried out within the corresponding year. According to its National Mine Action Plan, Chile envisages the full implementation of the obligations contained in Article 5 within the 10-year deadline that has been given by the Convention.	All minefields in Chile have been identified and perimeter-marked. Since May 2005, Chile carried out the following activities: • Clearance of 5 minefields in Region I, Chacalluta sector, has been completed. • Work in the Tambo Quemado sector started in July 2005, and is 50% advanced, 1,269 anti-personnel mines have been destroyed. • In November 2005, post-clearance inspection took place in Tejas Verde, in minefields that had been cleared in 2004-2005. • In February 2006, a demining operation started in Region II, in Llullaillaco National Park aiming to clear 6	As of 30 April 2006, there remained 169 minefields in Chile covering 2,139 hectares and containing 115,668 anti-personnel mines. During the second semester of 2006, work should commence in other areas: In 3 minefields of Region XII, Tierra del Fuego, containing 3,642 mines; In 2 minefields in Chacalluta, Region I. Chile's initial goal to start work in all its mined areas is about to be achieved. From this point on, Chile will move to a second phase during which work will be maintained and increased in each of these areas.	The following circumstances might impede Chile's progress: • Geographical characteristics of the country which affects planning and development of demining operations. • Characteristics of the terrain, especially altitude, climate, and areas with difficult access. • Almost all minefields in Chile contain both anti-personnel mines and anti-tank mines which limits the use of mechanical means to remove mines and means that mines have to be lifted mainly manually. • As a result of the above-described circumstances, it is	From 2004 to date, Chile has contributed financially to 56% of its demining programme, the rest being provided by international contributions. In addition, the Chilean armed forces covered the costs related to specialised and non-specialised personnel involved in demining operations.		Continued international financial support is essential to maintain and increase the current level of activities. International cooperation, equipment, technology transfer as well financing of the demining operations will be crucial to increase the work rate.

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		minefields. Work is 66% advanced with 1,440 anti-personnel mines having been destroyed.		difficult to use and access a more advanced technology that would enable better progress in demining.			
Colombia	Colombia commits to demine 34 military bases in the next five years. Demining teams and emergency teams composed of army, navy and police staff will be formed to carry out demining work. The OAS will train 40 men as deminers and Colombia is in the process of developing a work plan with the support of Canada and the OAS.						
Congo		Two reconnaissance missions were sent to Congo's south-western border with Angola in order to gather reliable data to set up a demining programme. However, the existence of anti-personnel mines in this border area still needs to be confirmed.	See previous column.	Geographical: the area suspected to be mined in the border with Angola is not safe enough to conduct demining operations and Congo would like this area to be demined jointly with Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Technical: Congo is for the first time involved in a humanitarian demining programme and the Congolese armed forces do neither have the technology nor the expertise for this kind of demining.			Support for the development of a demining programme.
Croatia	In 2005 the National Mine Action Program was revised to reflect a new awareness that adequate financing was the new main		As of January 2006, 1147 square kilometres was still considered as mine suspected area. CROMAC estimates that some 28 percent, or	Domestic and international political will and economic support.	Approximately 75 percent of funds for demining in Croatia have come from the state, 50 percent from Croatia's state budget		

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	precondition/stumbling block to fulfilling the obligation of the Ottawa Convention – i.e. to demine Croatia by the 2009 Convention deadline.		320 square kilometres, deserves priority, the remaining area being of low economic value and not important in either reconstruction or development.		and 25 percent from public and state owned companies.		
Cyprus	According to the National Plan, the destruction of anti-personnel mines laid in minefields is to be completed by July 2013. Work has so far proceeded as planned and it is expected that the National Plan will be successfully completed within the specified time frame.	• Since June 2005, and in line with the time schedule of the National Plan, the Republic of Cyprus has proceeded to the destruction of 237 laid anti-personnel mines, which were removed from 2 minefields of the National Guard. • The work which commenced in November 2004 in the Buffer Zone was completed in July 2005, with a total of 8 minefields cleared, 3 suspected areas checked and 961 anti-personnel mines destroyed. All land areas were returned to their owners for agricultural development.	According to the time schedule, the destruction of 280 mines laid in 2 minefields is foreseen for 2006. In total, 3,801 mines laid in 14 minefields under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus remain to be destroyed by 1 July 2013.		Work to implement the Convention is funded by the Republic of Cyprus and is carried out by a specially trained military team.		
Democratic Republic of the Congo	The work of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop a plan has been delayed because such a document can only be established when the extent of the anti-personnel mine contamination is known.	The data compiled on mined areas has been put in IMSMA. Some general surveys have been conducted by international NGOs which identified some dangerous areas in areas formerly suspected to be mined. Demining of the areas identified in Tanganyika district started in 2005.	The Democratic Republic of Congo believes that the most appropriate course of action for its problem is the conduct of technical surveys followed by immediate demining activities. An increase of the number of international NGOs operating in the DRC and the development of national capacity would	Mines are scattered over a huge territory and very few records of mined areas are available.	A national structure for mine action is about to be established and will be placed under the direct authority of the President of the DRC. It will be composed of : • an interministerial organ which will be in charge of adopting the national plan and defining priorities. • a technical organ which will implement		Support in the establishment of a national structure for mine action, and of a demining team composed of members of the DRC armed forces and finally an increased financial commitment from the international community for the international and national NGOs working

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		To date, approximately 2,675,810 square metres and 260 km of road have been cleared.	also be helping.		the national plan, accredit demining operators and oversee their work.		in the DRC.
Denmark		The contract for demining is to be awarded to the company winning the tender in May 2006 and work on site is expected to commence early June 2006. It is planned that areas successively will be released as the clearing progresses.	1% of the estimated 1.4 million landmines deployed during the Second World War remain. These remaining mines are located on the Skallingen peninsula.	The mines are located in dunes, beach and marsh habitat. The area is a very dynamic environment with fluctuations in ground levels over time due to the movement of the dunes.	The Danish Government concluded in November 2005 a political agreement regarding the fiscal bill for 2006. This agreement allocates a total of 86 million DKK (approximately 13 million US\$) for the clearance of mines in the dune and beach areas on Skallingen.		
Ecuador							
Eritrea							
Ethiopia		Since the Ethiopian Mine Action Office was established in 2005, 2,226 hectares of mine contaminated land have been cleared. Mine risk education has been going on since January 2003 mainly in the north of the country, in the Tigray and Afar region.					
France							
Greece	According to the pace of progress so far, Greece indicated that it will complete its demining obligations by 2014 and there is a high probability that it will complete earlier.	Greece has completed demining in 47% of mined areas.					
Guinea Bissau		In 2005, Guinea Bissau cleared 119,464.47 square metres and destroyed 26 anti-personnel mines. Guinea Bissau indicated that it is about to declare the capital,	The Landmine Impact Survey launched in 2004 is still ongoing and should be completed in December 2006.				

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		Bissau, free of landmines but ERW contamination in Bissau and surroundings remains a threat to the population.					
Jordan	By the spring of 2008, Jordan hopes to demine all the Israeli minefields on its territory found along its western border with Israel. This will total 12 million square metres, i.e. 30 percent of the total remaining landmine threat. By 2009 Jordan plans to have demined the remaining Jordanian minefields in the Jordan Valley. This will total 8 million square metres / 27 percent of the total remaining landmine threat. Finally, the northern border mine-belt with Syria that has an area approximately 15 million square metres / 43 percent of the total remaining landmine threat will also be demined by the spring of 2009.	Since the 7MSP, the following efforts have been undertaken: • The Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) project to demine the Israeli minefields in the Wadi Araba region that runs from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea in Aqaba is set to begin. This task is expected to take 2 years. NPA is in the process of establishing and training its teams and will start actual work in June. Initial funding has come from Norway. • The EC has funded a project to clear a high impact area in the northern part of the Jordan Valley called 'Baqura / North Shunah.' The minefields in this area are a mixture of both Jordanian and Israeli minefields that comprise an area of approximately 1.5 million square metres. The Jordanian Armed Forces will undertake the clearance and it is soon to commence. The result will be the availability of highly arable land for development in one of the most densely	In order for Jordan to be in compliance with its obligations, it has to clear approximately 35 million square metres of suspected hazardous area and destroy roughly 200,000 mines by May 2009. Jordan's Royal Engineering Corps has been the sole clearance capacity in Jordan since 1993, now joined by a capacity from NPA. However for Jordan to meet its obligations, it will need even greater mine clearance capacity.	Jordan hopes that it will not face any impediments that may hinder our efforts, such as funding gaps, difficulties in keeping the issue a priority when only a few mines remain, and regional political upheaval. Aside from these external risks, Jordan has identified three major issues that it considers paramount: First, Jordan needs to enhance demining capacity in order to increase annual clearance rates. If operations in the area along the Syrian border could begin in 2006/07, 2009 completion would be even more secure. Second, the armed forces could benefit from further technical assistance and training so that the systems and techniques used by the Royal Engineering Corps become even more efficient and productive. Third, Jordan needs to attract, train, and retain technical and managerial staff. Focused capacity development support is still needed as the	The Government of Jordan is highly committed to its mine action program and does its utmost to support it, contributing US\$ 3.5 million annually to the Jordan Demining program and covering the running costs of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR). The Jordanian Armed Forces seconds to the NCDR a number of staff members and its Royal Engineering Corps has appointed one of its senior staff as liaison officer to the NCDR to ensure full cooperation and coordination between the two bodies	Mine action in Jordan is managed by the NCDR which works very closely with all national & international stakeholders and partners. The NCDR has garnered the political will necessary within Jordan to give mine action the attention it duly deserves. There is a renewed sense of ownership and commitment to deal with the problem within the government and military which bodes well for the future. The NCDR has greatly enhanced its own capacity as an effective organization and last year launched Jordan's first 'National Plan for Mine Action' which it is in the process of implementing. The NCDR has since the 6MSP to have secured some major funding for the demining projects. One of the remaining challenges, however, is to maintain the momentum so that the NCDR remains capable and poised to lead and manage the national mine action programme. In this	Major funding priorities are: • Mobilizing support for the clearance of the Syrian border mine-belt. These minefields do not pose a great technical challenge as they are marked and fenced. What they do pose is an operational challenge that could be overcome if more resources could be attracted or if a new operator began working in Jordan. • Continued support for the Royal Engineers for training and equipment • Modest support for the NCDR in the form of training and institutional capacity development.

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		populated and poverty stricken regions of the country. • To help better coordinate, plan, and prioritize the upcoming three years of activity Jordan will undertake a significantly re-modeled Landmine Impact Survey. Since a great percentage of the information needed is readily available, it has been determined that a Landmine Retrofit Survey tailored to needs is all that is required. Funding from Norway and Canada has been secured.		government's ability to contribute more to mine action is stretched to the limit.		context continued support for capacity building is an important area that must not be overlooked.	
Macedonia, FYR of	Macedonia aims to be free of anti-personnel mines by September 2006.		Five possible contaminated areas in Kumanovo-Skopje-Tetovo that the Protection and Rescue Directorate intends to clear within 120 days.				
Malawi							
Mauritania	According to the 2005-2009 plan which was submitted in Nairobi, Mauritania plans to demine high and medium impact areas and to identify and mark all known mined areas pending their clearance. Mauritania's action plan will be revised after the completion of the Landmine Impact Survey.	In 2005-2006, 10,000 square metres were cleared and 85 anti-personnel were found and destroyed. Mine risk education was one of the main activities during 2005-2006. 2,500,000 square metres in mined areas were marked, 160 people received MRE training, and several awareness campaigns were launched.					
Mozambique	The Government of Mozambique is undertaking efforts with a view of	Demining activities in 29 villages resulted in the clearance of 98 areas suspected to be	There are still 353 remaining suspected mined areas to be confirmed and in	The knowledge of the real situation of mines represents an important challenge to the			Continuous funding for the Mozambique Mine Action Programme.

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	complying with its 2009 deadline for mine clearance.	mined, representing more than 23 million square metres. In conducting area reduction, Mozambique returned 72 million square metres to the communities.	addition 215 new areas have been reported by operators and local authorities.	programme and is directly linked to the 2009 deadline.			
Nicaragua	For 2006, Nicaragua plans to destroy 15,391 mines – 2,052 of which should have been destroyed in 2005 – with 56 objectives to demine.	In 2005, 12,540 mines were destroyed along 36 kilometres of border representing an area of 353,562 square metres. 14,945 UXO were also found and destroyed. Nicaragua has demined 883 minefields out of 991 registered.	There remains 14,052 mines to be destroyed in 2006 and another 13,266 in 2007.	Lack of equipment especially detectors, accessibility of the mined areas and weather conditions are all factors slowing down demining operations.			
Niger							
Peru		An Impact Survey has been conducted in all five mine-affected areas in the Santiago river area in Northern Peru. 364 electricity pylons were cleared in 2005. A one-year project was signed with the European Commission in December 2005 to survey and clear the Condor mountain range.	Peru plans to complete the joint demining operations with Ecuador in the Chira river area in 2006. By the end of 2007, it should complete the clearance and quality assurance of all electricity pylons. The EC funded clearance and survey operations in one sector of the Condor mountain will continue. In 2007, clearance of areas around high-security prisons and police stations will be initiated.	Peru identified 3 challenges which are slowing down demining work: First, logistical challenges resulting from a difficult topography and the remoteness of some affected areas. Second, mines were displaced as a result of natural phenomena such as torrential rains, earthquakes and landslides. Third: Peru needs additional financial resources.	CONTRAMINAS has been set up within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure operational coordination of mine action in Peru. Demining work is undertaken by the army and the National Police. CONTRAMINAS is funded with national resources and clearance of the electricity pylons is funded by the State power company.		Additional financial resources will be required for: • Completion of clearance in the Condor mountain range. • Clearance of areas around high-security prisons and police stations.
Rwanda	Rwanda believes that its 2009 clearance deadline is still achievable provided it gets the necessary support. A more realistic timing for the clearance of all remaining minefields	To date, more than 1,000,000 square metres have been cleared and resettled. 34 small and medium minefields have been cleared and returned to communities for social and economic activities.	16 minefields remain uncleared These are estimated to be about 885,930 square metres. Remaining areas are good agricultural land, currently not in use due to the threat of landmines. There are	Although Rwanda still intends to complete its obligations within its deadline, the lack of comprehensive data on the type and density of mines and minefields affects planning. Rwanda lacks funds to			Priorities for assistance are: • Vegetation clearing assets that will take into consideration the challenging terrain in Rwanda. • Funds for mounting expenses of demining

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	will be possible once the technical survey is completed.	More than 1000 acres of tea plantation have been cleared and returned to production. 35,000 mines and UXO were destroyed countrywide. More than 100 Km of commercial roads were verified to allow their repairs. The demining force was increased to 234 people and trained to IMAS.	plans to conduct a technical survey of all remaining minefields in Rwanda.	support demining operational costs Some minefields are not accessible by vehicles, either because of steep hills or being in remote areas.			operations. • MRE funding to re-sensitize the population to avoid careless behaviour which have resulted in accidents.
Serbia							
Senegal							
Sudan	Sudan's plans are centred on the following priorities: 1. Clearance of main roads, water sources and agricultural farms 2. Intensification of mine risk education activities, 3. Capacity building and training	In the last few months some routes have been opened that link Juba, Rumbek and Wau Town to the Ugandan and Kenyan borders.		Sudan lacks in capacity building, technical know how and more importantly in funding.			See "Impeding circumstances" column.
Swaziland	In August 2006, Swaziland will receive technical assistance from the GICHD which should enable the country to draw up a plan to use for area reduction, demining and quality assurance and resource mobilisation.	In February 2006, a Committee consisting of key Ministries was put in place to determine ways and means to implement the Ottawa Convention. In May 2006 Swaziland held bilateral discussions with the ISU during which it was agreed that a technical mission would visit Swaziland in August 2006 to assist Swaziland in fulfilling its obligations as soon as possible before the 1 June 2009 deadline.	The exact location of the suspected mined area along the Swaziland-Mozambican border as well as the physical features of this area still have to be determined in order for Swaziland to draw up a mine clearance plan.	Several years have passed since members of the defence force received relevant demining training and their skills and knowledge have become outdated.			Swaziland requires assistance to draw up an action plan for its suspected mined area and will require financial help to implement this plan.
Tajikistan	Tajikistan Mine Action Programme is being implemented in	In 2005 Tajikistan cleared 130,000 square metres. It also	In two years of activity, teams have cleared 200,000 square metres	Incomplete survey data and financial resources.	The level of economic development in Tajikistan does not	The national Mine Action Programme is integrated with other	Support is needed in priority for: 1. The Completion

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	accordance with the Five Year Strategy. Within the framework of this plan and based on results of clearance so far, Tajikistan intends to double the productivity and costs effectiveness in 2006/2007.	developed and submitted 10 project proposals to donors for 2006, including for mine clearance.	out of 25 million square metres suspected to be contaminated.		permit the allocation of a lot of funds to the mine action programme but the Government's contribution to the programme is increasing each year. The Government of Tajikistan provides the use of training areas, building and facilities. The ministries of defence and emergency situations, and the National Border Defence Committee provide human resources to the programme.	projects and managed by national authorities and enjoys wide ministerial support and cooperation. There are ongoing discussions with representatives of FSD about the procedures and phases of transfer of responsibilities and management of operations to the national authorities. The process leading to national management of mine clearance is envisaged to be completed by 2007-2008.	Initiative (12 million \$US) 2. Mechanical demining machines
Thailand	TMAC completed the 2nd Master Plan of the Thailand Humanitarian Mine Action 2005-2009. The Master Plan touches upon the problem regarding data of mine-contaminated areas contained in the Level I Impact Survey. It also proposes the area reduction technique as one of the strategies to stimulate mine clearance. Pending approval by the National Committee on Humanitarian Mine Action, TMAC has already pursued the implementation process along the lines of this Master Plan.	In 2005, a total of 5,874,667 square metres of land was cleared by the Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC), the General Chatichai Choonhavan Foundation (GCCF), and the Japan Alliance for Humanitarian Demining Support (JAHDS). Since the 6MSP, a total of 291,148 square metres of mine-contaminated areas have been cleared and returned to the community. Therefore, the total area that has been demined since Thailand became a party to the Convention in 1999 has reached 9.34 square kilometres.	Acquire more specific and precise data regarding mined areas through a Technical Survey.		Thailand believes that it is necessary to stimulate public awareness in order to promote a more cohesive and concrete partnership among government agencies, NGOs and the private sector. Thailand is also in the process of restructuring TMAC into a more dynamic and independent entity. Through this new structure, it is expected that TMAC's allocated budget as well as staff would be increased and, as a consequence, the mine action would be accelerated. On the international front, Thailand cooperates with relevant supporters such as the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, and the 14-member Human		

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					Security Network, to establish practical cooperation on landmines. Thailand and Cambodia have also agreed during the Joint Committee meeting in February 2006 to jointly conduct a feasibility study on mine clearance in prioritized mine-suspected areas along the border between the two countries.		
Tunisia		90 percent of the minefield located in the Ras Jedir region has been cleared.	Clearance of minefields laid in Saharan areas.	The sandy terrain in which mines are buried is making clearance more complicated and more dangerous. In addition, Tunisia noted that it had received low financial support from the international community.			
Turkey		• No clearance activities have taken place in Turkey since the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties. Because of harsh winter conditions, clearance cannot start until May.			The number of Turkish General Staff personnel involved in mine clearance activities has risen from 325 to 461 in 2005.		
Uganda	In 2006, Uganda plans to establish four additional multi-purposed technical survey/clearance/EOD teams and two additional quality assurance control teams. Demining operations are and will be conducted by seconded army engineers and police officers trained in humanitarian demining.	A National Mine Action Steering Committee has been established and commenced work. A mine action policy has also been drafted and approval by the Cabinet is pending. The Mine Action Centre Uganda was officially opened on 4 April 2006.	Conduct of targeted needs assessment in Pader, Kitgum and Gulu in Northern Uganda and parts of Kabarole district in Western Uganda. Establishment of additional teams for survey, clearance, EOD and quality assurance work to respond to identified needs.	Insurgency and civil conflicts and funding were identified as the two main circumstances that may impede the ability of Uganda to fulfil its Article 5 obligations within 10 years.	22 army engineers and paramedics, 39 police officers have been seconded to the Office of the Prime Minister / Mine Action Centre Uganda. 500,000,000 Uganda Shilling have been earmarked for mine action in the 2006-2007 national budget.	Demining operations are and will be conducted by national staff only. National capacity is being developed and will be further developed with support of a variety of organisations.	Priorities for assistance are: • Technical assistance for capacity development support in the form of a mine action advisor and demining and targeted needs assessment expertise. • Further training using the above mentioned means. • Resources to enhance demining in an efficient and timely manner.

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United Kingdom	See information on Argentina.	See information on Argentina.					
Venezuela							
Yemen	By 2009 Yemen will clear all hazard areas and all landmine areas by 2011. From April 2009 Yemen will commit its resources to deal with the remaining problem with minimum international support. At the end of March 2009, a total of 311 square kilometres will have been released	As of the end of 2005, all high, 59 medium and 73 low impacted communities were freed from landmines. 315 square kilometres, out of 922 square kilometres had been surveyed and cleared.	607 square kilometres of suspected land remain to be surveyed and cleared. The minefields in which work has been suspended have to be permanently marked.		The Government of Yemen provides over \$US 3.5 million to mine action annually and its mine action programme has been nationally executed since October 2003. Mine action personnel is seconded from the Ministry of Defence, no NGOs or commercial companies are involved in mine clearance.	See previous column.	Yemen will need continued international support both financial and technological.
Zambia	With the assistance of the United Nations, Zambia has developed a national strategic plan to meet its Convention obligations within the set deadline. This plan for completion which is being finalized undertake to show how in four years Zambia will reduce its landmine victims level to virtually zero, remove blockages to community and national economic development as well as create a residual mine action capacity to clear any newly discovered anti-personnel mines. This residual capacity should be capable of meeting Zambia's treaty obligations by 2011.	Of the 41 areas initially identified as being mined, 7 of these have been cleared and some of these have been handed over the resident communities for their use. Insufficient funding has meant that very limited clearance work has been undertaken in the past year.	According to the plan, a detailed assessment needs to be undertaken to identify all contaminated areas.	Although Zambia allocated some of its own resources to fulfil its obligations in the last three years, this amount was small compared to how much is actually required to conduct clearance and other mine action activities. At current funding rates treaty obligations will not be achieved within the given timeframe without donor assistance.	In the last three years the Government of Zambia spent approximately US\$ 250,000 in terms of human resources and funds in an effort to fulfil its treaty obligations. Given a small national budget and the several competing developmental priorities prevent, it is an indication of the Zambian government's desire and commitment to meeting its obligations.	The plan for completion hopes to maximize the long term benefits from invested resources such as trained staff which will be taking care of any threats after the clearance work is completed.	3 million \$US for the implementation of Zambia's plan for completion.
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe's plan was based on the premise that national resources	At the end of 2005, Zimbabwe completed clearance of the 220km	About 50 percent of the 700km mined areas remain to be cleared.	Lack of donor funding.	In 2006, the Mine Action Programme was allocated over \$US		Donor assistance is required to increase the number of demining

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	would be complemented by donor assistance. Since no assistance has been forthcoming to date, Zimbabwe does not see itself being able to meet the deadline.	Victoria Falls to Mlibizi minefield that had started about 7 years ago. 25 959 mines were destroyed in the process, 6 959 of them were destroyed last year alone.	Zimbabwe is placing priority on the Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner minefield which once cleared will facilitate the establishment of a transfrontier game sanctuary.		270,000.		teams so that they can work on more than one minefield at a time. Demining equipment and logistical backup are also needed.
