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**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**

19 November 2012

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**Twelfth Meeting**  
**Geneva, 3-7 December 2012**  
Item 10 of the provisional agenda  
**Consideration of the general status and operation  
of the Convention**

**Achieving the aims of the Cartagena Action Plan:  
The Geneva Progress Report 2011-2012**

**Submitted by the President-Designate of the Twelfth Meeting  
of the States Parties\***

**Section #2**  
**Mine clearance, Victim assistance**

**III. Mine clearance**

1. The Phnom Penh Progress Report recorded that as of 2 December 2011, there were 36 States Parties that had formally indicated they had to fulfil the obligation contained in Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention. In addition, the Phnom Penh Progress Report recorded that, in addition to these 36 States Parties, two States Parties – Germany and Hungary – informed the States Parties that they suspected areas under their jurisdiction or control may contain anti-personnel mines.

2. Since the 11MSP, [four] States Parties – Denmark, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan and [Uganda] – reported that they have completed implementation of Article 5. Denmark's implementation challenge involved addressing 186 hectares of area known or suspected to contain mines on the Skallingen Peninsula, which is an internationally recognised protected area due to its environmental significance. Guinea-Bissau's efforts to comply with Article 5 involved clearing or otherwise declaring safe 6.5 million square metres of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and destroying 3,973 anti-personnel mines, 364 other mines and 331,591 other explosive remnants of war. In fulfilling its Article 5 obligations, Jordan cleared more than 60 million square metres of areas known or suspected to contain mines with cleared areas subsequently made available for major development projects, including for agriculture, religious pilgrimages and tourism. [...]

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\* Document submitted after the established deadline to allow the States parties to provide comprehensive information on their activities.

3. Also since the 11MSP, Germany formally reported that a former military training area, Wittstock, in the state of Brandenburg, is suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. In addition, Hungary formally reported that a section of the Hungarian-Croatian border between the municipalities of Matty and Kölked is suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. As well, one State Party – Burundi – which had informed the 11MSP that it had completed implementation of Article 5 subsequently formally reported 163 areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are suspected to be emplaced.

4. There are now [35] States Parties that have formally indicated that they must still fulfil the obligation contained in Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Mauritania, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Zimbabwe. In addition, on 23 May 2012, Niger informed the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies of one area, totalling 2,400 square metres, known to contain mines within Niger. As well, it was recalled that South Sudan had informed the 11MSP of areas within South Sudan that are known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Also, Somalia, for which the Convention enters into force on 1 October 2012, has made it clear that it will have obligations under Article 5.

5. At the Cartagena Summit, it was agreed that States Parties that have been granted an extension to their initial Article 5 deadline will complete implementation of Article 5 as soon as possible but not later than their extended deadlines, ensure progress toward completion proceeds in accordance with the commitments made in their extension requests and the decisions taken on their requests, and report regularly on such progress.<sup>1</sup> Since the 11MSP, States Parties that have been granted extensions on deadlines continued efforts to act in accordance with their Cartagena Summit commitments.

6. Algeria has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 April 2017. It is extension request, Algeria committed in its extension request to address, in 2012, areas on its western borders: in the province of Tiemecen, six mined areas totalling 130,650 square metres; in the province of Naama, work will start in one mined area totalling 650,000 square metres; on its eastern borders: in the province of El-Taref, one mined area totalling 840,000 square metres; in the province of Souk Ahras, two mined areas totalling 900,000 square metres; in the province of Tébessa, one mined area totalling 820,000 square metres. Algeria further indicated in its extension request that the following areas were projected to be addressed by the end of 2014: on the western border, work would be completed in the province of Tiemcen and work would continue in the province of Naama, on the eastern border, in the province of El-Taref, work would be completed in the communes of El-Taref, Zitouna, Ain-El Karma, Bouhadjar, Oued Zitoun, Echatt, Ben Mehidi, and work would commence in Besbes, in the province of Souk Ahras, work would be completed in the communes of Ouilène, Taoura, Sidi Fredj, El Machrouha, Souk Ahras, and work would commence in Zarouria, in the province of Tébessa, work would be completed in the communes of El Kouif, Ain Zerga, El Meridj, Ouenza and work would commence in Tébessa.

7. Argentina has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 January 2012. Argentina indicated in its request that, as it “does not exercise territorial control over the land to be demined,” the plan submitted as part of the request is a “schematic plan”. Argentina has pointed out that this plan will be developed in detail and will be implemented as soon as Argentina does exercise control over the areas in question or when both Argentina and the

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<sup>1</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #13.

United Kingdom “reach agreement over making progress in such planning.” Since the 11MSP, there has been no change regarding the exercise of control over the areas in question.

8. Bosnia and Herzegovina has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 March 2019. In 2012, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that a total of 1,312 square kilometres of “mine suspected area” remains, including 289 square kilometres of known “mine risk areas”. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that while its 2009-2019 strategic plan is being reviewed, the current estimate is that the total of “mine suspected area” will be reduced by 440 square kilometres by the end of 2014. Bosnia and Herzegovina also indicated that it is falling behind schedule in terms of its plan to complete implementation by its 1 March 2019 deadline, mainly due to a lack of funding.

9. Cambodia has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 January 2020. Cambodia committed in its request to clear, in 2010 and 2011 a total of 79,588,349 square metres of area containing anti-personnel mines and in 2012 to clear an additional 40,991,940 square metres of area containing anti-personnel mines. Cambodia has reported the release (i.e. through clearance and other means) in 2010 and 2011 of 142,836,640 square metres of area containing anti-personnel mines and / or anti-vehicle mines and or other explosive remnants of war. Also in its extension request, Cambodia indicated that it estimated 648.8 square kilometres of area containing anti-personnel mines covering 122 districts would require full clearance and that by the end of 2012 the Baseline Survey would be completed to define a new baseline. By December 2011, Cambodia had completed the Baseline Survey in 67 districts and the remaining districts were to be completed by the end of 2012, although in May 2012 Cambodia reported that there were 15 districts for which Baseline Survey remained unfunded. Cambodia further reported that the Baseline Survey to date had resulted in the identification of 11,024 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 966,853,922 square metres. In its extension request, Cambodia projected that it would release approximately 83 million square metres during the period 2013-2014.

10. Chad has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 January 2014. Chad committed in its request to conduct reconnaissance and technical survey to assess the mine problem in the entire country (excluding Tibesti) and carry out clearance of high impact areas known to contain mines and unexploded ordnance particularly in areas where operators have started demining operations; create a new demining section or acquire mechanised means to resume demining operations in the minefield surrounding the Wadi Doum base in four areas with a combined area of four million square meters over a period of five years; over an estimated period of two years update its database; on completion of the reconnaissance, carry out demining of areas known to contain mines and unexploded ordnance, and; resume operations in the north-east of the country. In 2012, Chad reported that the first phase of the technical survey had covered four regions (N'Djamena, Sila, Salamat, Hadjer-Lamis) and most of the suspected areas of two others (Borkou, Ennedi). Chad indicated that operations have located 32,743,108 square metres of suspected area over seven regions, located and destroyed 1,298 anti-personnel mines and 1,261 anti-vehicle mines, and cleared 1,027,506 square metres. Chad further indicated that the second phase of the technical survey which was due to start in September 2011, had not yet started as of May 2012. Chad recalled that when it submitted a three year extension request, a three year period to obtain clarity on the remaining challenge was projected and a 12 month delay in starting survey and clearance operations reduced this period to two years. Chad indicated that it intended to present a revised action plan to the 12MSP based on the results of the technical survey.

11. Chile has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 March 2020. Chile committed in its request to clear, in 2011, a total of 19 mined areas and certify a total of 23 mined areas addressing a total of 3,100,836 square metres and destroying 10,325 anti-personnel mines and 6,694 anti-tank mines and in 2012 to clearing and certifying a total of 24 mined areas

measuring 1,584,512 square metres and destroying 13,270 anti-personnel mines and 8,380 anti-tank mines. In May 2012, Chile reported that 27.85 percent of a total of 181,814 mines have been destroyed, including 9,785 mines destroyed since June 2011. Chile also indicated that of a total of 23,207,281 square metres that originally needed to be addressed, 30.45 percent has been addressed corresponding to the release of 7,066,487 square metres. Chile projects that, between the 12MSP and the end of 2014 it would release an additional 45 areas totalling 5,607,729 square metres and destroying 25,285 antipersonnel mines.<sup>2</sup>

12. Colombia has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 March 2021. Colombia committed in its request to release, in 2011, through non-technical survey a total of 1,440,000 square metres and through clearance a total of 960,000 square metres and to release, in 2012, through non-technical survey a total of 1,440,000 square metres and a total of 960,000 square metres through clearance. Colombia reported that 13 of 14 municipalities targeted for interventions during the period 2011-2013 have been assisted to some extent with a total of 374,000 square metres cleared and 203 explosive artefacts destroyed. This includes San Carlos, in March 2012, being declared the first municipality to be free of the suspicion of anti-personnel mines after three years of operations resulting in the clearance of 155,426 square metres and the destruction of 69 explosive artefacts. Colombia projects that by the end of 2014 an additional [...] square metres will be released through non-technical survey and [...] square metres released through clearance, with implementation complete in the municipalities of Granada (Antioquia), San Francisco (Antioquia), Samaná (Caldas), San Vicente de Chucurí (Santander), Carmen de Chucurí (Santander) and Zambrano (Bolívar).

13. In its Article 5 extension request, Colombia made commitments to develop and implement more effective methods to determine the actual location and size of suspected hazardous area in municipalities where this may be possible. Related to this, Colombia reported that extensive database clean-up has been undertaken, that it is now understood that 618 municipalities have some level of contamination, that 32 municipalities that had been previously considered to be affected have been discounted, and that the database now has 19,199 records, of which 18,309 remain to be processed. Colombia further committed in its extension request to submit to the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) a revised implementation plan that contains and takes into account a clearer and more substantiated understanding of the location and nature of contamination and that includes revised annual projections of which areas would be addressed when and how. Colombia reported that it is on track to submitting such a revised plan.

14. Congo has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 January 2013.

15. Croatia has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 March 2019. At the May 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Croatia indicated that at the end of 2011, 745 square kilometres remained to be cleared or reduced by surveys and released for the use by civilian populations. Croatia further indicated that during the first four months of 2012, the mine suspected areas was reduced by 17,902,180 square metres – 11,939,684 square metres cleared and 5,962,494 square metres reduced by general survey. Croatia projects that, between the 12MSP and the end of 2014, it would release an additional 242 square kilometres including 92 square kilometres through clearance, 100 square kilometres through technical survey and 50 square kilometres through general survey.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore,

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<sup>2</sup> his summary of Chile's projected progress is based on information contained in annex 3 to Chile's 2011 extension request.

<sup>3</sup> This summary of Croatia's projected progress is based on information contained in part 17 of Croatia's 2008 extension request.

Croatia projects that by the end of 2013 it will have completely removed the mine threat from agricultural lands.

16. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 November 2012. In its request, the Democratic Republic of the Congo committed to survey all 70 areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo suspected to contain anti-personnel mines with this survey effort to be completed by the end of 2014. In addition, the Democratic Republic of the Congo committed to proceed with demining of 12 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines. At the May 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that 10 of these 12 areas have now been cleared with a total of 340,322.77 square metres have been demined. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also reported that, in the course of technical and non-technical survey operations, 12 additional areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines were identified.

17. Ecuador has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 October 2017. Ecuador reported that, at the end of 2011, 42 areas known to contain mines amounting to 1,880,859.50 square metres remained to be addressed. In October 2012, Ecuador informed the ISU that, to date in 2012, 16 of these 42 mined areas had been cleared with 26 remaining to be addressed. Ecuador further indicated that by the end of 2014, it projected that [...] of these 26 areas totalling [...] square metres would have been addressed. Ecuador also indicated that it is on track to completing implementation by its 1 October 2017 deadline.

18. Eritrea has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 February 2015. Eritrea committed in its request, in concert with ongoing demining work, to carry out, by March 2014, non-technical and technical surveys and to resolve data issues in order to identify the exact remaining challenge. In 2012, Eritrea reported that of the 751 known mined areas identified by the Landmine Impact Survey that had been carried out in Eritrea, 152 have now been released through clearance and technical survey operations, leaving 599 mined areas to be addressed. Eritrea further reported that, during the first quarter of 2012, over 16 square kilometres were released including 33 areas totalling 3,227,860 square metres released through clearance and 31 areas totalling 12,850,318 square metres verified by non-technical survey. Eritrea also reported that 82 square kilometres remains subject to survey.

19. Mauritania has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 January 2016. In its request, Mauritania committed to release, in 2012, 6 areas totalling 11,696,000 square metres. At the May 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mauritania reported that 26,080,854 square metres, more than double the projected amount, were released, in large part due to the use of non-technical survey to cancel suspected areas, in particular in the Guemgoum area. There are 14 mined areas remaining to be addressed in Mauritania, including seven areas totalling 3,925,000 square metres requiring clearance and seven areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 31,169,646 square metres. Mauritania plans to address all seven mined areas by 2014 and to survey the remaining suspected areas by the middle of 2013 if sufficient funding can be secured. Mauritania further indicated that it is strongly committed to completing implementation by its 1 January 2016 deadline.

20. Mozambique has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 March 2014. At the May 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mozambique reported that there are 40 districts in eight provinces (Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Tete, Manica, Sofala, Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo) in which there remain 377 mined areas totalling 16,042,136 square metres. Mozambique further reported that by the end of 2012 it intended to address 254 sites totalling 8,039,314 square metres, thereby completing implementation in the provinces of Gaza, Cabo Delgado and Niassa as well as in 25 districts in other provinces. Mozambique also reported that in 2012 it aimed to mobilise the amount of funds required to ensure completion in all parts of Mozambique by its 1 March 2014 deadline.

21. Peru has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 March 2017. Peru reported that, during 2011 and the first four months of 2012, it completed the clearance of mined areas around maximum security prisons and police bases, with a total of 12,536.5 square metres cleared and 3,897 anti-personnel mines and five UXO destroyed. Peru also reported that during this period it had cleared 44,851.83 square metres and destroyed 1,746 anti-personnel mines and eight UXO in Chiqueiza, Cahuide, Pacahacutec, Huascar and Sanchez Rancho on its border with Ecuador. In August 2012, Peru informed the ISU that 18 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 307,111.91 square metres remain to be addressed and that by the end of 2014 it hopes to have addressed ten of these areas totalling 133,383.33 square metres. Peru also indicated that it is on track to complete implementation by its 1 March 2017 deadline but cautioned that it is possible that additional mined areas could be identified along its border with Ecuador.

22. Senegal has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 March 2016. Senegal reported in 2012 that it has identified 12 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 79,000 square metres and that there remain 46 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 3.5 million square metres. Senegal intends to employ three operators which would cover 750,000 square metres a year, i.e., 3 million square metres over a four-year period until its 1 March 2016 deadline. Senegal indicated that it intends to have addressed 15 areas by the end of 2014. Senegal indicated that completion of implementation by its 1 March 2016 deadline remains dependent upon the security situation and the availability of sufficient financial resources to support demining work.

23. Tajikistan has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 April 2020. Tajikistan reported in 2012 that 167 areas totalling 6.5 square kilometres known to contain mines along the Tajik-Afghan border and 31 areas totalling 2.3 square kilometres in the Central Region known to contain mines remain. Tajikistan noted, however, that most of these areas do not have precise geographic descriptions. Tajikistan also reported that, by the end of 2014, approximately 4 square kilometres of the current estimate of 8.8 square kilometres of area known to contain mines would have been addressed. In addition, Tajikistan indicated that if capacity and resources remain constant, it will be in a position to complete implementation by its 1 April 2020 deadline.

24. Thailand has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 November 2018. Thailand indicated in its request that 1,202.25 square kilometres were known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines remained to be addressed. In 2012, Thailand reported that the total contaminated area had been reduced to 542.6 square kilometres. In its request, Thailand committed to develop standard procedures for area reduction and to implement a new national annual demining plan. In 2012, Thailand reported that land release methods are now being employed at full scale for the first time and that these methods have doubled the speed with which areas are released. Thailand also reported that it has reviewed its national mine action strategy and that it is still committed to do its utmost to release all mined areas by its 1 November 2018 deadline. Thailand noted that unfinished border demarcation with neighbouring countries may delay clearance activities. On this matter, Thailand indicated that Cambodia and Thailand recently agreed to task Thailand Mine Action Centre and Cambodia Mine Action Centre to demine the required areas, as will be agreed upon by both sides in the provisional demilitarised zone.

25. The United Kingdom has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 March 2019. The United Kingdom reported in May 2012 on the completion of its phase 2 land release pilot programme, indicating that 3.71 square kilometres of area suspected to contain mines was released and that in the process of doing so 79 items of UXO were identified and destroyed. The United Kingdom further reported that a Suspect Hazardous Area Land Release Committee (SHALARC) was established, the purpose of which was to gain local government and community engagement in the process, provide a transparent mechanism

for exposing the methodology and ensure local confidence in the procedures and processes. The United Kingdom noted that the end of the programme was marked by a formal release of a nineteenth century old stone wall corral, access to which had been denied to the community for 30 years. Following the clearance of 4 suspected mine contaminated sites in phase 1, 113 Argentine minefields (both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle) from the conflict in 1982 remain to be cleared.

26. Venezuela has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 October 2014. Venezuela committed in its extension request to address in 2012 a total of one mined area measuring 20,000 square metres. Venezuela reported that in 2012 clearance was completed in one mined area measuring 40,000 square metres in the area of the naval base of Isla Vapor culminating in the destruction of 43 mines. Venezuela also reported the clearance of three mined areas measuring 40,000 square metres in the area of the naval base of Cararabo culminating in the destruction of 316 mines. Venezuela further reported that, in 2013, three mined areas totalling 20,000 square metres and containing 299 mines in the area of the Atabapo naval base and two mined areas totalling 40,000 square metres and containing 23 mines in the area of the Puerto Paez naval base would be cleared.

27. Yemen has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 March 2015. In its extension request, Yemen indicated that, of the original total of 923,332,281 square metres it needed to address, by 2008 a total of 213,054,566.8 square metres had been “completed”, 133,146,458.1 square metres had been “cancelled”, 363,902,887.0 square metres were “ongoing” and 213,228,369.0 square metres were “left”. In transparency information submitted in 2012, Yemen reported that, as of 31 March 2012, 262 areas totalling 504,673,393.8 have been “completed”, 190 areas totalling 148,271,783 square metres have been “cancelled”, 22 areas totalling 70,126,785 are “ongoing”, 111 areas totalling 139,091,565 square metres are “left” and ten areas totalling 61,168,754 are suspended.

28. Zimbabwe has an extended deadline that occurs on 1 January 2013. In its extension request granted in 2010, Zimbabwe committed that, following a two year process of survey, retraining, consolidation of resources and fundraising, Zimbabwe would submit a further extension request that will allow a clear and effective plan for the final removal of all remaining minefields. In its request submitted in 2012, Zimbabwe indicates that a total of 205.85 square kilometres of area known or suspected to contain mines remains to be cleared.

29. At the Cartagena Summit, it was agreed that States Parties that have reported mined areas under their jurisdiction or control will do their utmost to identify, if they have not yet done so, the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under their jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or are suspected to be emplaced, and report this information.<sup>4</sup> It was also agreed that these States Parties will do their utmost to ensure that all available methods are applied where and as relevant, by developing and implementing applicable national standards, policies and procedures for releasing land through technical and non-technical means that are accountable and acceptable to local communities, including through the involvement of women and men in the acceptance process, and, that such States Parties would provide information on the areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey.<sup>5</sup> As well, it was agreed that these States Parties will do their utmost to take full national ownership of their Article 5 obligations by developing, implementing and regularly reviewing national mine action strategies and associated policies, plans, budget policies and legal frameworks, inform the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance on their

<sup>4</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #14.

<sup>5</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, actions #15 and #17.

implementation, and provide annually, in accordance with Article 7, precise information on the number, location and size of mined areas, anticipated particular technical or operational challenges, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas.<sup>6</sup> Since the 11MSP, States Parties continued efforts to act in accordance with their Cartagena Summit commitments.

30. Afghanistan has a deadline which occurs on 1 March 2013. Afghanistan indicated in its extension request submitted in 2012 that, as of 30 June 2012, the remaining challenge included 3,847 anti-personnel minefields covering 289.4 square kilometres, 1,266 anti-tank minefields covering 264.95 square kilometres and 155 contaminated areas contaminated by other explosive remnants of war covering 41.91 square kilometres. The request indicates that implementing partners had secured funding to clear a number of these contaminated areas in subsequent months (599 anti-personnel minefields covering 31.48 square kilometres, 169 anti-tank minefields covering 17.88 square kilometres, 58 areas contaminated by other ERW covering 15.03 square kilometres) and in some cases had started addressing these areas. The request further indicates that given this, in order for Afghanistan to meet its Article 5 obligations during the requested extension period, it will have to address 3,248 anti-personnel minefields covering 257.92 square kilometres. In addition, Afghanistan will have to address 1,097 anti-tank minefields covering 247.07 square kilometres and 97 areas contaminated by other ERW covering 26.88 square kilometres. Afghanistan projects that, between the 12MSP and the end of 2014 it would survey 16,224 communities, remove an additional 1,412 hazards, and release additional 142.66 square kilometres of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.<sup>7</sup>

31. Angola has a deadline that occurs on 1 January 2013. Angola indicated in its extension request submitted in 2012 that, while it knows there are 2,116 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines measuring a total of 793,177,246.68 square metres that remain to be addressed, the basis of its request is that it still does not have a clear picture of landmine contamination in the country.

32. Bhutan has a deadline that occurs on 1 February 2016. Bhutan reported in its initial transparency report the existence and location of two mined areas in Gobarkunda and Ngamglam sub districts, both in Samdrupjonkhar Dzongkhag along their southern border containing a total of 50 MNM 14 mines and 53 M16 mines. Bhutan subsequently reported at the June 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance that it has every expectation that it will be in a position to make a formal declaration on full compliance of its obligations under Article 5 well before its 1 February 2016 deadline.

33. Burundi has a deadline that occurs on 1 April 2014. Further to announcing completion of the implementation of Article 5 at the 11MSP, Burundi reported that in December 2011, the Ministry of Energy and Mines requested the Ministry of Public Security to assist in identifying areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war that may be located inside natural reserves around electrical pylons. Burundi further reported that, in January 2012, the Ministry of Energy and Mines handed over a list of 163 suspected areas and that it was projected that deminers, subject to the Mines Advisory Group securing funding, would conduct a non-technical survey to confirm or refute the suspicions in these areas. Burundi indicated that it is still committed to complete implementation by its 1 April 2014 deadline.

34. In its extension request submitted in 2012, Cyprus has indicated that implementation would be complete with respect to all mined areas under the effective control of Cyprus by Cyprus' 1 July 2013 deadline. Cyprus further indicated that, with respect to areas that it has

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<sup>6</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, actions #16 and #17.

<sup>7</sup> This summary of Afghanistan's projected progress is based on information contained in part 17 of Afghanistan's 2012 extension request.



expressed are outside of its effective control, “it would again evaluate the situation and (...) form a fresh opinion as to whether matters have evolved so that the Republic is, or may in the future be, able to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines and to arrive at a specific assessment of the time required for destruction.”

35. Ethiopia has a deadline that occurs on 1 June 2015. Ethiopia indicated that the technical survey conducted since 2007 confirmed that there remain 315 suspected hazardous areas, with 5.9 square kilometres confirmed minefield areas. Ethiopia reported that demining in these areas will be required until at least the end of 2013. Ethiopia further reported that the Ethiopian Government has decided to transfer the capacity and the mandate of the mine action programme to the Ministry of National Defence because the remaining minefields are located in remote areas mostly at the border with Somalia and they will be more easily accessible to the Ministry of National Defence and in the current context of decreasing funding for demining, the Ministry of National Defence is better placed in terms of budgeting issues than the civilian mine action programme.

36. Gambia has a deadline that occurs on 1 March 2013. Gambia indicated that the nature of the border region, particularly on the southern border with the Senegalese Region of Cassamance where armed conflict has taken place in the last two decades, is such that people move freely from one side to another thus exposing them to landmines as was the case in an area bordering the Gambian village of Gillanfari in Foni Bintang District. Gambia also reported that it continues to collaborate with partners to deliver mine risk education in communities in the affected areas and has a well-trained and fully equipped humanitarian demining team which is always ready to respond to any emergencies.

37. Germany reported that the area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, which previously comprised almost the whole of the former military training area of Wittstock (i.e., approximately 144 square kilometres), has now been reduced by means of historical research to 12,000 square metres. The area was used by the infantry of the former Soviet armed forces for which a suspicion of the presence of anti-personnel mines could not be ruled out. Germany reported that the priority is to carry out a technical survey of the area and that, in order to begin survey, the necessary infrastructure (e.g., emergency access routes) needs to be in place. Germany also reported that it is committed to completing the technical survey, and if required, to destroying all anti-personnel mines in the suspected area within the timeframe strictly necessary and that it will submit an action plan before the 12MSP.

38. Hungary reported that, concerning the areas at the Hungarian-Croatian border suspected of containing anti-personnel mines, the survey of the whole area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines has been completed and that the total area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines amounts to 1,007,747 square metres. Hungary further reported that it has created a mine information database which includes detailed information (including ownership) on the area, that a total of 350 warning signs have been emplaced and that demining may start as soon as an international tendering process is complete. Hungary indicated that it is on track to complete all work within the previously communicated time-frame (i.e., by 31 August 2013).

39. Iraq has a deadline that occurs on 1 February 2018. Iraq, in information provided to the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance in May 2009, indicated that the total area of contamination was still unknown and reported 3,673 areas in which anti-personnel mines were suspected to be emplaced or which were suspected to be hazardous. In information provided to the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance in May 2012, Iraq indicated that a non-technical survey has been launched in the Thi-Qar province, based on the confirmation of suspected hazardous areas identified by the impact survey conducted in 2004-2006. Iraq further indicated that the plan of the Ministry of Environment for 2012 also included the

completion the non-technical survey project in the three southern provinces supervised by the Regional Mine Action Centre-South (Basra, Mayssan and Muthanna).

40. Serbia has a deadline that occurs on 1 March 2014. Serbia reported in 2012 that there remain 10 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 1,385,215 square metres and 53 areas suspect to contain anti-personnel mines totalling approximately 2,000,000 square metres. Serbia further reported that areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines would be surveyed by 1 July 2013 to confirm or refute the presence of mines. Serbia also reported that, due to uncertainty of funding, it is not in a position to confirm that it will complete implementation by its 1 March 2014 deadline.

41. Sudan has a deadline that occurs on 1 April 2014. In information provided to the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance in May 2012, Sudan indicated that a total of 74 new hazards had been identified during 2011 and that around 294 known registered hazards remained to be cleared over the next two years. Sudan also indicated that new hazards may be identified as new areas open for clearance and survey but this number was not expected to be high. Sudan further indicated that the number of demining teams operating in the country was insufficient to complete implementation by its 1 April 2014 deadline and that it would request an extension. Sudan reported that the unstable security situation in the two States (Blue Nile and South Kordufan) meant that the demining operations could not start in these areas.

42. Turkey has a deadline that occurs on 1 March 2014. Turkey reported in 2012 that there remain 449,890 anti-personnel mines along Turkey's southern border with Syria and a total of 363,448 mines in other areas, with a majority of these in areas along Turkey's borders with Armenia, Iran and Iraq. Turkey further reported that, in the context of the Syrian Border Mine Clearance Project, the preparations of the tender document for demining activities in the first tender region between Cizre and Çobanbey, stretching 527 kilometres, were completed with 20 joint ventures invited to the tendering process and that the planned date for completing this mine clearance activity was within 2016. Turkey also reported that the tendering process of the second tender region between Çobanbey and Denizgören, stretching 384 kilometres, will be initiated after the validation of the contract for the first tender region and indicated that the planned date for completion in this sector was by the end of 2016. Turkey indicated that it is planning to finance the majority of its mine clearance activities with its own resources and with mine clearance along the Armenian and Iranian borders to be partially financed by EU sources, and that mines in areas other than along borders were being cleared by Turkish Armed Forces in accordance with priorities determined by the Armed Forces. Turkey further indicated that legal procedures on the establishment of a National Mine Action Authority and Mine Action Center had been initiated by the Ministry of National Defence.

43. The 11MSP noted that the Convention is silent on how to address situations where States Parties, which never have reported Article 5 obligations, discover previously unknown mined areas. The 11MSP further noted a need to develop a rational response to such situations which is firmly anchored in the object and purpose of the Convention and which does not undermine the legal obligations to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas as soon as possible. In this context, the meeting requested that the President, supported by the Coordinating Committee, consult with all relevant stakeholders to prepare a constructive discussion on this matter at the May 2012 meetings of the Standing Committees with a view to recommendations on this matter being submitted for consideration at the 12MSP. [...]

44. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties recalled the decisions taken at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP) to establish a process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extensions of Article 5 deadlines, noted the suggested outline provided by the ISU to assist requesting States Parties in organising the

content of their requests and expressed the view that the Article 5 extensions process has led to the establishment of an orderly and predictable calendar for submitting, analysing and considering extension requests. With respect to such requests, at the Cartagena Summit it was agreed that States Parties that have reported mined areas under their jurisdiction or control but due to exceptional circumstances need to request an extension to their 10-year deadline will inform the States Parties of these exceptional circumstances in due time, develop the extension request in line with the recommendations made by the 7MSP and utilise the opportunity for informal dialogue with the group mandated to analyse the extension request.<sup>8</sup>

45. The Phnom Penh Progress Report recalled the importance of the timely submission of extension requests to the overall effective functioning of the Article 5 extension process and, in this context recommended that all States Parties that wish to submit requests do so no later than 31 March of the year when the request would be considered (i.e., the year prior to the State Party's deadline). Since the 11MSP, requests were received by the President from Afghanistan (on 29 March 2012), Angola (on 30 March 2012), Cyprus (on 30 April 2012), and Zimbabwe (on 30 March 2012). In keeping with the decisions of the 7MSP, the President informed the States Parties of the receipt of these requests and instructed the ISU to make these requests available to all interested actors on the Convention's web site.

46. Further to the commitments made at the Cartagena Summit, representatives of each requesting State Party and the group mandated to analyse the extension requests engaged in informal dialogue with a view to the analysing group seeking a better understanding of the requests and to offer advice and suggestions to requesting States Parties. This cooperative process resulted in requesting States Parties clarifying many questions about their requests and with two (Afghanistan on 31 August 2012 and Zimbabwe on 25 October 2012) submitting revised, improved requests.

47. It was noted that the following State Party with an Article 5 deadline that occurs in 2013 did not submit a request for an extension: Gambia. It was also noted that the following States Parties with deadlines in 2014 will submit extension requests in 2013: Chad, Sudan and Turkey. It was further noted that five additional States Parties have deadlines that occur in 2014: Burundi, Congo, Mozambique, Serbia and Venezuela.

48. The 11MSP noted that the Article 5 extension request process places a heavy burden on the representatives of those States Parties that are mandated to analyse the requests and in this context recommended that those States Parties mandated to analyse requests in 2012 reflect on the process to date with a view to identifying efficient methods to ensure that high quality requests and analyses are prepared and with a view to recommendations on this matter being submitted for consideration the 12MSP. In September 2012, the States Parties that are mandated to analyse the requests submitted their recommendations for consideration at the 12MSP.

49. To increase the knowledge and build the capacity of representatives of States Parties mandated to analyse requests, the ISU convened a workshop on 30 March 2012 for these States Parties.

50. The 11MSP noted with satisfaction the efforts undertaken pursuant to the decision of the 10MSP to request the Coordinating Committee to organise the week of meetings of the Standing Committees in 2011 in such a way that time is allocated for Co-Chairs, individual States Parties and others to experiment with the new ways of using the Intersessional Work Programme to more intensively focus on national contexts or to otherwise creatively

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<sup>8</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #21.

support progress in the application of the Cartagena Action Plan. The 11MSP encouraged the Coordinating Committee to consider similar efforts in 2012. Pursuant to this, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies, Indonesia and Zambia, used a small-group format to provide an interactive forum for in-depth cooperation discussions on the progress made and the road ahead for two States Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Chad) that are fulfilling commitments made in their Article 5 extension requests.

51. As noted, at the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to ensure that all available methods for the full and expedient implementation of Article 5 (1) are applied where and as relevant, by developing and implementing applicable national standards, policies and procedures for releasing land through technical and non-technical means that are accountable and acceptable to local communities, including through the involvement of women and men in the acceptance process.<sup>9</sup> In the context of its land release programme, the GICHD has supported, since the 11MSP, Cambodia, Colombia, Jordan, Mozambique, South Sudan and Thailand in the development or enhancement of a national policy and national mine action standards that included chapters on releasing land through non-technical and technical means.

52. As noted, at the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties committed to take full national ownership of their Article 5 obligations by developing, implementing and regularly reviewing national mine action strategies and associated policies, plans, budget policies and legal frameworks.<sup>10</sup> Since the 11MSP, the GICHD assisted South Sudan in the development of its national mine action strategy for the period 2012-2016 by facilitating participatory workshops and drafting the strategy. GICHD support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo included assistance in the development of a multi-year mine action plan. At the request of the ISU, the GICHD assisted and advised Chad in determining the remaining known and suspected hazardous areas, quantifying the problem in terms of location, verifying its contamination data and updating its database.

#### **IV. Victim assistance**

53. At the Cartagena Summit, while noting the progress that has been made in achieving the victim assistance aim of the Convention, the States Parties recognised that the most identifiable gains had been process-related and that the real promise of the Convention is to make a difference on the ground, in the lives of survivors, the families of those killed or injured, and their communities.<sup>11</sup> The States Parties expressed the view that a persistent challenge remains in translating increased understanding on victim assistance into tangible improvements in the quality of daily life of mine victims. To this end, the States Parties expressed their resolve to provide adequate age- and gender-sensitive assistance to mine victims, through a holistic and integrated approach that includes emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support, and social and economic inclusion in accordance with applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, with the aim of ensuring their full and effective participation and inclusion in the social, cultural, economic and political life of their communities.<sup>12</sup> Also to this end, the States Parties, particularly those accountable to and responsible for the well-being of significant numbers of mine victims, agreed to reinforce their efforts and do their utmost to facilitate measurable progress by applying 11 specific actions in the Cartagena Action Plan related to

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<sup>9</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, Action #15.

<sup>10</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, Action #16.

<sup>11</sup> Review of the operation and status of the Convention: 2005-2009, paragraph 112.

<sup>12</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, paragraph 12.

victim assistance.<sup>13</sup> Since the 11MSP, States Parties continued efforts to act in accordance with their Cartagena Summit commitments.

54. In noting that the States Parties find themselves approximately half-way between the 2009 Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World and the Convention's Third Review Conference in 2014, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, Algeria and Croatia, highlighted that an opportunity exists in 2012 to prepare a mid-term assessment of the Cartagena Action Plan. This mid-term assessment was submitted by the Co-Chairs to the 12MSP as document # [...]. A summary of the information contained in this mid-term assessment of the implementation of the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan follows.

55. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to ensure the inclusion and full and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations as well as other relevant stake holders in victim assistance related activities.<sup>14</sup> Since the Cartagena Summit, the following States Parties reported some progress in ensuring the full and active participation of survivors and other persons with disabilities in the development of national plans, legal frameworks, policies, and other relevant processes: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Uganda.

56. Examples of ensuring the full and active participation of survivors and other persons with disabilities in the development of national plans, legal frameworks, policies, and other relevant processes include the following: Senegal reported the establishment of a committee for the development of its national action plan for victim assistance which involved the active and effective participation of the Senegalese Association of Victims of Mines as well as the relevant government ministries and other pertinent actors. Colombia reported having enacted legislation to ensure the participation of landmine and other ERW survivors in matters concerning the development of guidelines for, and the implementation of, the national plan of action at national and regional level. Tajikistan, through the UNDP-supported mine action centre, reported having contributed to the establishment of two survivor organisations across the country and having strengthened the capacity of these organisations, such as by training in language and computer skills and providing of IT and office equipment. Croatia reported that the active and on-going involvement of mine and other ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities in relevant processes has been enhanced through the inclusion of five non-governmental organisations in the national coordinating body for victim assistance/disability.

57. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to enhance collaboration and cooperation between relevant government ministries, organizations of persons with disabilities, international agencies and non-governmental organisations in order to ensure a holistic and integrated approach to assisting mine survivors, their families and communities.<sup>15</sup> The following States Parties have reported the existence of an inter-ministerial/inter-sectoral coordination mechanism for the development implementation, monitoring and evaluation of relevant national policies, plans and legal frameworks: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Uganda. Of the States Parties that reported having established a coordination mechanism, several noted that the coordination mechanism for

<sup>13</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, actions #23 to #33.

<sup>14</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #23.

<sup>15</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #24.

victim assistance was led by the national entity responsible for disability within the State to which responsibility for victim assistance has been delegated. In such cases, this national disability body is mandated to take victim assistance efforts and obligations into account when coordinating, developing and monitoring disability policy, plans and programmes. In a few cases, States Parties indicated the establishment of victim assistance specific coordination mechanism, such as a sub-committee or a working group, led by the national mine action centre but involving the active participation of relevant ministries and other entities.

58. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to collect age and gender disaggregated data in order to develop, implement, monitor and evaluation adequate national policies, plans and legal frameworks including by assessing the needs and priorities of mine victims and the availability and quality of relevant services, and to make such data available to all relevant stakeholders and ensure that such efforts contribute to national injury surveillance and other relevant data collection systems for use in programme planning.<sup>16</sup> Since the Cartagena Summit, the following States Parties have reported some progress in improving their capacity to understand the extent of the challenges faced in addressing the rights and needs landmine victims: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mozambique, Serbia, Senegal, Peru, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Uganda. The following States Parties reported progress in integrating victim assistance data into the national health information system and/or injury surveillance system: Cambodia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Serbia.

59. Examples of initiatives undertaken to enhance data collection efforts include the following: Ethiopia reported having established a unit within the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs where full time data analysts are responsible for collecting and disseminating data on persons with disabilities including landmine and other ERW survivors and the availability of services country wide. Cambodia reported that the Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth is in the process of establishing a patient management system which, amongst other things, will have the capacity to record the number of persons with disabilities, including landmine and other ERW survivors, who have received services from physical rehabilitation centres. Croatia established a working group to implement the Agreement on Cooperation in the Development of a Unified Database and Data Exchange and accompanying Protocol on Methods of Keeping Records on Mine/UXO Victims. Under this agreement, all institutions and organisations that have information about mine/UXO victims will submit this data to the Croatian National Institute of Public Health for the creation of a unified database. Uganda developed a population and housing census to be distributed in 2013 which will capture data on disability including landmine and other ERW survivors.

60. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties recalled the importance of developing, or reviewing and modifying if necessary, appropriate legislation and policy frameworks to promote the rights, accessibility, quality medical treatment, adequate healthcare, social protection and non-discrimination for all citizens with disabilities including landmine and other ERW survivors.<sup>17</sup> Since the Cartagena Summit, the following States Parties reported having enacted national legislation or policies that promote and guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities, including mine survivors: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Uganda. Furthermore, the following States Party reported having undertaken an assessment of national legal and policy frameworks to determine if

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<sup>16</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, Action #25.

<sup>17</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, Action #26.

existing frameworks effectively address the needs and rights of persons with disabilities including landmine survivors: Albania.

61. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to develop and implement, if they have not yet done so, a comprehensive plan of action and budget that addresses the rights and needs of mine victims through objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound, ensuring that such a plan is integrated into broader relevant national policies, plans, and legal frameworks.<sup>18</sup> Since the Cartagena Summit, the following States Parties have indicated that a national action plan or strategy for addressing the rights and needs of persons with disabilities including mine victims has been established: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen. Four of these States Parties indicated that they are in the process of renewing the national action plan Afghanistan, Peru, Tajikistan, and Uganda. In addition, three States Parties indicated having commenced the process of developing a new plan: Iraq, Serbia, and South Sudan. Few States Parties specified whether a budget for implementation of the plan has been established or whether activities listed in the plan are to be integrated into the budgets and work plans of the relevant ministries and agencies.

62. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to monitor and evaluate progress regarding victim assistance within broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks on an on-going basis to ensure that activities are having a tangible impact on the quality of life of mine victims and other persons with disabilities.<sup>19</sup> Of the twenty States Parties that reported having a national action plan or policy in place, the following indicated that an accompanying monitoring system had been established to enable evaluation of the national policies, plans and legal frameworks on an on-going basis: Afghanistan, Albania, Cambodia, Colombia, Mozambique, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Uganda. Examples of activities undertaken to monitor efforts to address the rights and needs of mine victims include the following: Cambodia reported having established a monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit responsible for monitoring progress in implementing the national action plan along with other relevant policies and laws. The unit has conducted a review of Cambodia's efforts to implement its national action plan and has made recommendations which will feed into the process for developing the country's national disability policy. Uganda developed a monitoring tool which outlines clear indicators, baselines and targets against which results can be measured and evaluated and progress reported on an on-going basis.

63. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to ensure the continued involvement and effective contribution in all relevant Convention related activities by health, rehabilitation, social services, education, employment, gender and disability rights experts, including mine and other ERW survivors, inter alia by supporting the inclusion of such expertise in their delegations.<sup>20</sup> Since the Cartagena Summit, the following States Parties have included such expertise in their delegations to formal meetings of the Convention: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda and Yemen. Furthermore, the following States Parties included a victim assistance expert on their official delegation to the 12MSP: [...]

<sup>18</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #27.

<sup>19</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #28.

<sup>20</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #29.

64. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to strengthen national ownership as well as to develop and implement capacity building and training plans to promote and enhance the capacity of the women, men, and associations of victims, other organisations and national institutions charged with delivering services and implementing relevant national policies, plans and legal frameworks. The States Parties agreed to this in recognition that national ownership, adequate infrastructure, and human, technical, and financial resources are essential for the long term sustainability of programmes and services and noted that weak capacity to address disability at all levels including within the governmental and non-governmental sector has been identified as a significant challenge to making progress in meeting the rights and needs of survivors. Since the Cartagena Summit, the following States Parties have reported having undertaken efforts to strengthen national ownership and build capacity and enhance national ownership: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mozambique, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Uganda.

65. Examples of activities undertaken to enhance capacity include the following: Albania reported the establishment of an on-going education programme for faculty at the national university in order to enhance national rehabilitation capacities. Sudan reported the delivery of training for NGOs that are involved in delivering victim assistance services. Uganda reported the development of training manuals to building capacity at various levels of government. An example of activities undertaken to strengthen national ownership include the following: Peru reported an increase in the national budget in 2012 for implementing plans and programmes for persons with disabilities including landmine and other ERW survivors.

66. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to raise awareness amongst mine victims, about their rights and available services, as well as within government authorities, service providers and amongst the general public to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities including mine survivors.<sup>21</sup> Since the Cartagena Summit, the following States Parties reported having undertaken awareness raising activities at the national level: Afghanistan, Albania, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Uganda. Examples of awareness raising activities that have been undertaken include the following: Bosnia and Herzegovina reported having developed a web portal on victim assistance to disseminate information about rights and available services. Cambodia reported having undertaken education campaigns using various forms of media including posters, TV and radio. Colombia reported the delivery of courses on the rights of landmine and other ERW survivors in affected areas. Sudan undertook a series of workshops nationwide promoting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

67. Since the Cartagena Summit, States Parties have noted a variety of challenges in their efforts to implement the Cartagena Action Plan including the following: Access to remote and rural areas to conduct activities or provide services remains a challenge in many mine-affected countries. In many cases there is limited physical infrastructure. Often there is a lack of, or limited amount of, technical, financial, human resources to implement activities. Often there is a lack of commitment and/or capacity to address disability issues within the governmental and non-governmental sectors. Methods for monitoring and evaluating plans and services remain weak and underdeveloped. Disability continues to be regarded as a charity issue not a human rights issue within the relevant ministries. In addition, despite the establishment of a national mechanism to coordinate, there remains a

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<sup>21</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #32.



limited amount of actual collaboration between relevant ministries and other key actors in the disability sector.

68. In reviewing progress at this mid-way point in implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan, States Parties noted that further progress is planned by the time of the Third Review Conference in a variety of areas including in the following areas: the development of national guidelines on accessibility for persons with disabilities; awareness raising efforts; national capacity for physical rehabilitation; the monitoring and evaluation of national disability policies; and, including the category “landmine survivors” in the national census. Goals articulated by affected States Parties are contained in the mid-term assessment of application of the victim assistance provisions (document # ...).

69. In 2012, on the margins of both the May meetings of the Standing Committees and the December 12MSP, the Co-Chairs, with the support of the ISU and in collaboration with the ICBL and ICRC, convened parallel programmes for victim assistance experts. The purpose of these parallel programmes was to enhance national efforts aimed at coordinating and monitoring the implementation of national plans. Financial support necessary to stage the 12MSP parallel programme was provided by Switzerland. Funding enabled interpretation to be provided in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish and Arabic and the participation of an international expert who led a training session on the monitoring and evaluation of national disability action plans.

70. At the Cartagena Summit, it was recognised that one of the key evolutions in victim assistance has been the entry into force of the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which provides a new human rights standard concerning persons with disabilities. It was recognised that the comprehensive manner in which the CRPD records what is required to promote the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities including mine survivors, in the social, cultural, economic and political life of their communities provides a new standard by which victim assistance efforts can be measured. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties recalled the linkages between the CRPD and victim assistance, in particular the six components, and recognised that the CRPD can be used to provide a framework for all States in meeting their responsibilities to mine survivors and their families. To date, 100 States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention have ratified the CRPD, including 15 States Parties that have responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen.

71. As indicated above, the 11MSP noted with satisfaction the efforts undertaken pursuant to the decision of the 10MSP to request the Coordinating Committee to organise the week of meetings of the Standing Committees in 2011 in such a way that time is allocated for Co-Chairs, individual States Parties and others to experiment with the new ways of using the Intersessional Work Programme to more intensively focus on national contexts or to otherwise creatively support progress in the application of the Cartagena Action Plan. The 11MSP encouraged the Coordinating Committee to consider similar efforts in 2012. Pursuant to this, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance used a small-group format to provide an interactive forum for in-depth cooperation discussions on the progress made and the road ahead for two States Parties (Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq) that have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors.

72. As noted above, at the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to collect all necessary data, disaggregated by sex and age, in order to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate adequate national policies, plans and legal frameworks including by assessing the needs and priorities of mine victims and the availability and quality of relevant services, make such data available to all relevant stakeholders and ensure that such efforts contribute

to national injury surveillance and other relevant data collection systems for use in programme planning.<sup>22</sup> Since the 11MSP, the GICHD and the Centre for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) of the James Madison University launched a study on accident and victim information systems aimed to contribute to a better understanding of how victim-related data are collected, compiled and analysed, and how the data are used to inform mine action operations. This study will offer lessons for States Parties wishing to improve their information management practices and systems for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of their victim assistance plans of action. It may also inform about possibilities as to how such systems could become a platform for broader national disability programming.

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<sup>22</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, action #25.