

First meeting
Maputo, 3-7 May 1999
Agenda item 17

FINAL REPORT

The Final Report of the First 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 consists of two parts and five annexes as follows:

- I. Organization and Work of the First Meeting
- II. Maputo Declaration

Annexes:

- Annex I: List of Documents
- Annex II: Reporting Formats for Article 7
- Annex III: President's Paper on Circulation of Article 7 Reports
- Annex IV: President's Paper on Intersessional Work
- Annex V: Statement by His Excellency Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique, at the opening ceremony of the First Meeting

PART I

ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE FIRST MEETING

A. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction provides in Article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2:

“1. The States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention, including:

“(a) The operation and status of this Convention;

“(b) Matters arising from the reports submitted under the provisions of this Convention;

“(c) International cooperation and assistance in accordance with Article 6;

“(d) The development of technologies to clear anti-personnel mines;

“(e) Submissions of States Parties under Article 8; and

“(f) Decisions relating to submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5.

“2. The First Meeting of the States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations within one year after the entry into force of this Convention. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations annually until the First Review Conference.”

2. At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 53/77 N welcomed the generous offer by the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to act as host for the First Meeting of the States Parties, and requested the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the First Meeting of the States Parties, to take place in Maputo during the week of 3 May 1999.

3. To prepare for the First Meeting, States Parties convened two rounds of open-ended informal consultations at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, to which they also invited States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations.

4. The first round of informal consultations was held on 1 March 1999, the day the Convention entered into force. During the consultations, participants considered a number of issues relating to the organization of the First Meeting including papers containing a draft provisional agenda, a draft programme of work, draft rules of procedure, and provisional estimated costs for convening the First Meeting. No objections were raised in connection with any of the papers considered and it was agreed that they would be finalized in all six languages of the Convention to be put before the First Meeting.

5. The second set of informal consultations took place on 13 April 1999. At that meeting, participants reviewed elements for a proposed draft political declaration to be issued on the occasion of the First Meeting; possible modalities for intersessional work under the Convention; practical ways of circulating the reports to be submitted under Article 7 of the Convention; and the issue of the venue and format of future meetings of the States Parties.

B. Organization of the First Meeting

6. The First Meeting was opened on 3 May 1999 by His Excellency Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique. The opening statement of the President of the Republic of Mozambique is contained in annex V to this report. The First Meeting elected by acclamation the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique, Dr. Leonardo Santos Simão, as its President in accordance with rule 7 of the Draft Rules of Procedure.

7. At the opening session, statements were made by Mrs. Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity; His Royal Highness Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al Hussein delivering a message to the First Meeting from Her Majesty Queen Noor of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Ms. Jody Williams, Ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines; and Ms. Fátima Gulamo of the Mozambican Campaign Against Landmines. In addition, the President of the Meeting read a message addressed to the First Meeting by the President of the United States of America, Mr. William Jefferson Clinton.

8. At its first plenary meeting, on 3 May 1999, the First Meeting adopted its agenda as contained in document APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.1. On the same occasion, the First Meeting adopted its Rules of Procedure as contained in document APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.3, the estimated costs for convening the First Meeting as contained in document APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.5, and its programme of work as contained in document APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.2.

9. Also at its first plenary meeting, the Meeting elected by acclamation the representatives of Honduras, Jordan, Norway and Turkmenistan as Vice-Presidents of the First Meeting in accordance with rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure.

10. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of Mr. Carlos dos Santos, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations in New York, as the Secretary-General of the Meeting. The nomination had been the result of informal consultations among States Parties.

C. Participation and Credentials in the First Meeting

11. Forty-three States Parties participated in the Meeting: Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Guinea, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, San Marino, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

12. Eighteen States which had ratified the Convention, but for which the Convention had not yet entered into force, participated in the Meeting as observers, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, second sentence, of the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Brazil, Chad, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Italy, Lesotho, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Swaziland and Uganda.

13. A further forty-seven States not parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting as observers, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, second sentence, of the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

14. Credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or by a person authorized by one of the above, as required by rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting, or credentials in the form of photocopies or facsimiles of such a document, or credentials in the form of information concerning the appointment of representatives to the Meeting received in the form of letters or notes verbales or facsimiles thereof from embassies, permanent missions to the United Nations or other intergovernmental organizations or other government offices or authorities, were received from all 108 States mentioned in paragraphs 11 through 13 above.

15. The Meeting accepted the credentials of the representatives of all of the States mentioned in paragraphs 11 through 13 above.

16. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Rules of Procedure, the following international organizations and institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as observers: Palestine, United Nations, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Office for Project Services, World Food Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, World Health Organization, European Commission, Organization of African Unity, Organization of American States, International Organization of The Francophonie, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Sovereign Military Order of Malta and International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

17. A list of all delegations to the First Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.1/1999/INF.1.

D. Work of the First Meeting

18. The First Meeting held seven plenary meetings from 3 to 7 May, when it concluded its work.

19. The first four plenary meetings were devoted to the general exchange of views under agenda item 10. Eighty-three delegations to the First Meeting made statements in the general exchange of views.

20. At the fifth plenary meeting, on 5 May 1999, the Meeting considered the submission of requests under Article 5 of the Convention. The President informed the Meeting that he had not been notified that any State wished to make such a request at the First Meeting. The Meeting took note of this.

21. At the same meeting, the Meeting considered the submission of requests under Article 8 of the Convention. The President informed the Meeting that he had not been notified that any State wished to make such a request at the First Meeting. The Meeting took note of this.

22. In addition to the plenary meetings, the Meeting held informal consultations on issues related to the operation of the Convention. These included the consideration of international cooperation and assistance in accordance with Article 6 on the topics of mine clearance, victim assistance, socio-economic reintegration and mine awareness, destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, and development of technologies for mine action.

E. Decisions and recommendations

23. At its fifth plenary meeting, on 5 May 1999, the Meeting considered matters arising from and in the context of reports to be submitted under Article 7, including consideration and adoption of the reporting formats. The reporting formats were adopted as amended and are contained in annex II to this report.

24. At its sixth plenary meeting, on 6 May 1999, the Meeting agreed that the content of the President's Paper on Circulation of Article 7 Reports as amended (APLC/MSP.1/1999/Informal 3/Rev.1) should guide the technical ways and means of circulation of the reports. That Paper is contained in annex III to this report.

25. Following consultations on the President's Paper on Intersessional Work (APLC/MSP.1/1999/Informal 2), the Meeting recognized the importance of having intersessional Standing Committees of Experts on issues related to the operation of the Convention. Subsequently, at its seventh plenary meeting, on 7 May 1999, the Meeting decided that the intersessional work would be guided by the President's Paper which is contained in annex IV to this report. Further consultations identified the following States Parties as Co-chairs and Rapporteurs for the intersessional work programme:

- Mine clearance Mozambique and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Co-Chairs;
Peru and the Netherlands, Rapporteurs.
- Victim assistance Mexico and Switzerland, Co-Chairs;
socio-economic Nicaragua and Japan, Rapporteurs.
reintegration and
mine awareness
- Stockpile destruction Hungary and Mali, Co-Chairs;
Malaysia and the Slovak Republic, Rapporteurs.
- Technologies for Cambodia and France, Co-Chairs;
mine action Yemen and Germany, Rapporteurs.
- General status and South Africa and Canada, Co-Chairs;
operation of the Zimbabwe and Belgium, Rapporteurs.
Convention

26. The Meeting further noted that the first sessions of the Standing Committees of Experts would take place in Geneva on the following dates:

- Mine clearance 13-15 September 1999
- Victim assistance 15-17 September 1999
socio-economic
reintegration and
mine awareness
- Stockpile destruction 9-10 December 1999
- Technologies for 13-14 December 1999
for mine action
- General status and 10-11 January 2000
operation of the
Convention

27. At its seventh plenary meeting, the Meeting agreed that the Second Meeting of the States Parties would be held on 11-15 September 2000 in Geneva.

28. At the same plenary meeting, the Meeting adopted the Maputo Declaration, which is contained in part II of this report.

F. Documentation

29. A list of documents of the First Meeting is contained in annex I to this report.

G. Adoption of the Final Report and conclusion of the First Meeting

30. At its seventh and final plenary meeting on 7 May 1999, the Meeting adopted its Final Report as contained in document APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.7 and as orally amended by the President.

PART II

MAPUTO DECLARATION

Maputo, Mozambique

7 May, 1999

1. We, the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, together with signatory States, are gathered in Maputo, Mozambique, joined by international organizations and institutions and non-governmental organizations, to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the total eradication of an insidious instrument of war and terror: anti-personnel mines.
2. Even now, at the end of the century, anti-personnel mines continue to maim and kill countless innocent people each day; force families to flee their lands and children to abandon their schools and playgrounds; and prevent long-suffering refugees and displaced persons from returning to rebuild their homes and their lives. The real or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines continues to deny access to much-needed resources and services and cripples normal social and economic development.
3. We raise our serious concern at the continued use of anti-personnel mines in areas of instability around the world. Such acts are contrary to the aims of the Convention; they exacerbate tensions, undermine confidence and impede diplomatic efforts to find peaceful solutions to conflicts.
4. Therefore, even as we celebrate this First Meeting of the States Parties two months after the rapid entry-into-force of the Convention, we recognize that the enduring value of this unique international instrument rests in fully realizing the obligations and the promise contained within the Convention
 - to ensure no new use;
 - to eradicate stocks;
 - to cease development, production and transfers;
 - to clear mined areas and thus free the land from its deadly bondage;
 - to assist the victims to reclaim their lives and to prevent new victims.
5. We believe these to be common tasks for humanity and therefore call on governments and people everywhere to join us in this effort.
6. To those who continue to use, develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain and transfer these weapons: cease now, and join us in this task.

7. To those who can offer technical and financial assistance to meet the enormous challenges of humanitarian mine action: intensify your efforts and help build the capacity of mine-affected countries themselves to increasingly take on these tasks.
8. To those who can offer assistance: help with the physical and psycho-social treatment and social and economic reintegration of mine victims, support mine awareness education programmes, and help those States in need to meet treaty obligations to demine and to destroy stockpiles, thus facilitating the widest possible adherence to the Convention.
9. To those that have not yet joined this community of States Parties: accede quickly to the Convention. To those who have signed: ratify. If ratification will take more time: provisionally apply the terms of the Convention while you put in place the necessary domestic legislation.
10. To the international community: promulgate, implement and universalize the Convention, the new international standard and norm of behaviour it is establishing.
11. In this spirit, we voice our outrage at the unabated use of anti-personnel mines in conflicts around the world. To those few signatories who continue to use these weapons, this is a violation of the object and purpose of the Convention that you solemnly signed. We call upon you to respect and implement your commitments.
12. Know that, as a community dedicated to seeing an end to the use of anti-personnel mines, our assistance and cooperation will flow primarily to those who have foresworn the use of these weapons forever through adherence to and implementation of the Convention.
13. Driven by the sad reality that the people of the world will continue to suffer the consequences of the use of anti-personnel mines for many years to come, we believe it crucial that we use this First Meeting of the States Parties to ensure that we make continued, measurable progress in our future efforts to eradicate anti-personnel mines and to alleviate the humanitarian crisis caused by them.
14. We recognize that anti-personnel mines represent a major public health threat. The plight of mine victims has revealed the inadequacy of assistance for victims in the countries most affected. Such assistance must be integrated into broader public health and socio-economic strategies to ensure not simply short-term care for victims, but special attention to the serious long-term needs for social and economic reintegration. Mine victims must be permitted to realize, with dignity, their place within their families and their societies. These issues must be accorded the highest political importance and practical commitment by States Parties and all those in the international community who care about this issue.
15. To this end, we commit ourselves to mobilise resources and energies to universalize the Convention, alleviate and eventually eradicate the human suffering caused by anti-personnel mines, including by striving to meet the goal of “zero victims”.

16. For these purposes, we, the States Parties, will implement an intersessional work programme to take us steadily forward to the next Meeting of the States Parties, which will take place in Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2000. This will enable us to focus and advance our mine action efforts and to measure progress made in achieving our objectives. This work will be based on our tradition of inclusivity, partnership, dialogue, openness and practical cooperation. In this regard, we invite all interested governments, international organizations and institutions and non-governmental organizations to join us in this task.

17. Our work programme will draw together experts, building on the discussions held here in Maputo, to address the key thematic issues of:

- the general status and operation of the Convention;
- mine clearance;
- victim assistance and mine awareness;
- stockpile destruction; and,
- technologies for mine action.

This intersessional work will, *inter alia*, assist us in developing, with the United Nations, a global picture of priorities consistent with the obligations and time-frames contained within the Convention, including with regard to international cooperation and assistance. It will also take into account important work done at the international, regional and sub-regional levels.

18. The work of our experts will begin just four months from now, in Geneva. We appreciate and accept the offer of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to support our efforts. Our work will complement and reinforce the important mine action activities being undertaken by mine-affected States working in partnership with other States, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector--also recognizing the United Nations system as an important actor in global mine action efforts.

19. Meeting here in one of the most mine-affected continents on earth and in a country which has experienced the ravages wreaked by these weapons on the Mozambican people and the social fabric of the nation, we focus our minds and strengthen our conviction on the need to make the killing fields of anti-personnel mines that have terrorized, maimed and killed people, destroyed lives and hope for too long, a relic of the past.

We are determined to succeed in our common task.

We are determined to work in partnership to this end.

We are determined to apply the principle of international humanitarian law, enunciated in the final preambular paragraph of the Convention itself that "...the right of the parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited..."

This is our firm pledge to future generations.

ANNEX I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Draft Provisional Agenda	APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.1
Draft Programme of Work	APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.2
Draft Rules of Procedure	APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.3
Provisional Reporting Formats for Article 7	APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.4
Estimated Costs for Convening the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction	APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.5
President's Paper, Maputo Declaration	APLC/MSP.1/1999/Informal 1
President's Paper, Maputo Declaration	APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.6*
Draft Final Report	APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.7
Provisional List of Participants	APLC/MSP.1/1999/MISC.1
Final List of Participants	APLC/MSP.1/1999/INF.1
President's Paper, Intersessional Work	APLC/MSP.1/1999/Informal 2
President's Paper, Circulation of Article 7 Reports	APLC/MSP.1/1999/Informal 3
President's Paper, Circulation of Article 7 Reports	APLC/MSP.1/1999/Informal 3/Rev.1

ANNEX II

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Reporting Formats for Article 7

Tables of formats may be expanded as desired

[In future years, cite article 7, paragraphs 2 and 3 regarding annual updates]

NAME OF STATE [PARTY]: _____

DATE OF SUBMISSION: _____

POINT OF CONTACT: _____
(Organization, telephones, fax, email) (ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLARIFICATION)

Form A National implementation measures

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
 a) The national implementation measures referred to in Article 9."

Remark: In accordance with Article 9, "Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control".

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from _____ to _____

Measures	Supplementary information (e.g., effective date of implementation & text of legislation attached).

Form B Stockpiled anti-personnel mines

Article 7. 1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

b) The total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by it, or under its jurisdiction or control, to include a breakdown of the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine stockpiled."

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from _____ to _____

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
TOTAL			

Form C Location of mined areas

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

c) To the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control, to include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced."

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from _____ to _____

1. Areas that contain mines*

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information

2. Areas suspected to contain mines*

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information

* If necessary, a separate table for each mined area may be provided

Form D (continued)

2. Transferred for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information: e.g. transferred from, transferred to
TOTAL	-----			

3. Transferred for the purpose of destruction (Article 3, para.2)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information: e.g. transferred from, transferred to
TOTAL	-----			

Form E Status of programs for conversion or de-commissioning of APM production facilities

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

 e) The status of programs for the conversion or de-commissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities."

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from _____ to _____

Indicate if to "convert" or "decommission"	Status (indicate if "in process" or "completed")	Supplementary information

Form F Status of programs for destruction of APMs

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

f) The status of programs for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, including details of the methods which will be used in destruction, the location of all destruction sites and the applicable safety and environmental standards to be observed."

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from _____ to _____

1. Status of programs for destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

Description of the status of programs including:	Details of:
Location of destruction sites	
	Methods
	Applicable safety standards
	Applicable environmental standards

2. Status of programs for destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

Description of the status of programs including:	Details of:
Location of destruction sites	
	Methods
	Applicable safety standards
	Applicable environmental standards

Form G APMs destroyed after entry into force

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

g) The types and quantities of all anti-personnel mines destroyed after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party, to include a breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, respectively, along with, if possible, the lot numbers of each type anti-personnel mine in the case of destruction in accordance with Article 4"

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from _____ to _____

1. Destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
TOTAL			

2. Destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

Type	Quantity	Supplementary information
TOTAL		

Form I Measures to provide warning to the population

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
 i) The measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to the population in relation to all areas identified under paragraph 2 of Article 5."

Remark: In accordance with Article 5, para.2: "Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The marking shall at least be to the standards set out in the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

State [Party]: _____ reporting for time period from _____ to _____

[Narrative]

ANNEX III

CIRCULATION OF ARTICLE 7 REPORTS

Under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on items (a) to (i). To facilitate this undertaking and to promote comparability and evaluation of data, a standard format has been developed in consultation with States Parties and will be considered for adoption by the First Meeting of the States Parties.

Given the detailed character of the reporting obligations, and the requirement under Article 7 for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to circulate this information, consideration should be given to the practical modalities and implications of meeting this requirement and an efficient and cost-effective approach to meeting this requirement should be established.

In accordance with Article 14, paragraph 2, of the Convention the costs incurred by the Secretary-General of the United Nations under Article 7 shall be borne by the States Parties. The amount of those costs depends largely on two factors:

- circulation of printed documents
- translation into all six authentic languages

Is there a need for printed documents?

With a new treaty instrument and new reporting requirements, we have an opportunity to take a new approach to the issue of document circulation. That means we could take advantage of today's prevalence of paperless communication and reflect this in the way the Article 7 reports are circulated.

States Parties would mail or submit their reports to the United Nations Secretariat through normal channels. The provision of reporting information on a disk would allow the Secretariat to set up the required compilation of reports in their internal database with a minimum of effort - and costs for the States Parties. For that reason the provision of reporting information on a disk should be encouraged.

For that reason and in order to assist States Parties in using the formats, Austria as Friend of the Chair would plan to distribute to delegations the agreed format, in template form, on disk, subsequent to its adoption by States Parties.

However, the United Nations Secretariat would continue to be prepared to receive also 'hard copy' reports in cases where States Parties will not be in a position to use electronic communication means, or when information would be submitted which is not easily convertible, e.g. maps.

Under Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Convention the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit all such reports to the States Parties. Given the anticipated quantity of information to be submitted, it would be practical and cost-effective to enable States Parties to retrieve the required information electronically – directly from the database in the United Nations Secretariat. Of course, those countries that might require or prefer a paper version could request the United Nations Secretariat for a 'hard copy' printout of this information.

Should only States Parties have access to information provided under Article 7?

The information contained in the reports will be of direct relevance for mine action. For this reason, it would indeed make sense to make it available to all interested in mine action - governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Easy access to Article 7 reports would improve the information flow and hence the coordination and effectiveness of global mine-clearance. Indeed, it would run counter to the humanitarian purpose of the Convention to prevent non-States and NGOs from having access to what will be current and accurate information which could be used for mine action purposes.

Some countries that are not yet States Parties have indicated that they would be willing to report under Article 7 on a voluntary basis. Should those countries be excluded from retrieving the reports of other States?

It should be recalled that the reports for the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms are on the web-site of the United Nations, freely accessible for everyone using the internet. The weapons systems covered under the Register of Conventional Arms are generally accepted to be of continued military significance and thus the information could be considered to be of a more sensitive nature than the contents of the Article 7 reports that deal with a weapon the destruction of which is at the core of the treaty obligations. Further, as States Parties will have already given up the option of using anti-personnel mines, questions of national security and confidentiality of information for these purposes become largely irrelevant.

Has every report to be translated into all six authentic languages?

States Parties will provide their reports in the language of their choice among the authentic languages of the Convention. These reports will be entered into the United Nations database in this form.

Attached to the principle of multilingualism, States Parties will aim at making these reports also available in other authentic languages of the Convention.

In view of the fact that the Convention does not provide for the costs of such translations, States Parties will adopt a pragmatic, case-by-case approach, calling on interested States Parties to provide such translations which then could be transmitted by the reporting State Party to the United Nations Secretariat for inclusion in the United Nations database.

This mechanism will be assessed at the next Meeting of the States Parties.

ANNEX IV

INTERSESSIONAL WORK

Background

Over the past three years a number of meetings on various aspects of Mine Action have been organized. They have provided important discussions on how to improve international coordination. However, there has been a certain lack of systematic structuring and sequencing of agendas and conferences. A more comprehensive framework would facilitate further progress.

Since its entry into force, the Convention may provide a more coherent and focused framework for international cooperation also with regard to Mine Action activities. It will be important to ensure the systematic, effective implementation of the Convention through a more regularized programme of work by establishing informal, open-ended intersessional working groups which could engage a broad international community for the purpose of advancing the achievement of the humanitarian objectives of the Convention. Such groups could facilitate in-depth considerations of Mine Action issues by all interested parties at meetings which complement and build upon each other in a structured and systematic way.

Proposal

To consolidate and concentrate global Mine Action efforts to the greatest extent possible and to highlight the role of the Convention as a comprehensive framework for Mine Action, it is proposed that the First Meeting of the States Parties in Maputo consider the establishment of an intersessional work programme. The aim is to organize the work within the framework of the Convention in a way which promotes continuity, openness, transparency, inclusiveness and a cooperative spirit.

In this regard, using the Maputo Declaration, the States Parties could establish informal, open-ended **Standing Committees of Experts (SCEs)** to focus on key themes as:

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

Mandate of the SCEs

- ▶ In-depth consideration of relevant questions for improving Mine Action within the above categories and outlining specific activities.

- ▶ Facilitating and supporting the effective functioning of the Convention as an instrument of Mine Action by maintaining practical work at a high level and with particular emphasis on international cooperation among governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The role of the Intersessional Work Programme undertaken by the SCEs should be an essential element in maintaining the momentum and cohesion behind the global humanitarian Mine Action effort. The work of the SCEs should support, *inter alia*, the coordination role played by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) as the focal point for United Nations Mine Action, and encourage the active participation of the United Nations and regional organizations active in Mine Action.

Participation

The work of the SCEs should build on the approach and spirit of inclusivity and engagement present in the informal Ottawa process, the Oslo negotiations and the First Meeting of the States Parties in Maputo. SCEs should provide an informal setting in which experts representing all interested Mine Action actors, e.g. States Parties to the Convention, Signatory States, other interested States, international and regional organizations and NGOs, might have an opportunity for substantive discussion and work to ensure that the global community continues to improve and make more efficient its collective Mine Action efforts in support of the objectives of the Convention.

Organizational Modalities for Intersessional Work

The SCEs should be co-chaired by a mine-affected and another interested State Party. The Co-chairs should be assisted in carrying out their tasks by two Rapporteurs, also reflecting this same balanced approach: one from a mine-affected and the other from another interested State Party. The Rapporteurs will assume the role of Co-chairs for the coming year and will be succeeded by new Rapporteurs. The co-chairmanships would last from one Meeting of the States Parties to the next. The SCEs could meet on, at least, an annual basis.

Whilst the Co-chairs of the SCEs may wish to host such intersessional work in their capitals (or elsewhere), it is suggested that meetings of the SCEs normally take place in Geneva. It would therefore be useful to consider the role of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in offering practical support to such intersessional activities, for example, by providing the necessary organization and venue. The meetings of the SCEs would, in this way, imply no additional costs beyond the costs of attendance.

ANNEX V

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. JOAQUIM ALBERTO CHISSANO,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST MEETING

Maputo, 3 May 1999

Allow me, at the outset, to express my warmest greetings to the distinguished participants in the First 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, which opens here today in the capital city of the Republic of Mozambique.

It is a matter of great pride and joy for us to host this important gathering in our motherland. The choice of Mozambique bears testimony to our country's commitment to fulfil the goals of the Convention – a commitment dating back to the process that culminated in the signing of the Convention in Ottawa.

The Friends of Maputo did not spare any effort to ensure that all would be done for the success of this Meeting. Let me seize this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to those countries that, alongside Mozambique, made the necessary arrangements for the holding of this Meeting.

This Meeting is of paramount symbolic importance, being held, as it is, so soon after the entry into force of the Convention, on 1 March -- a fact that reflects the unflinching determination of the States Parties to carry on their struggle against anti-personnel landmines.

This Meeting is also a historical landmark for mankind, as it is an unequivocal turn towards the eradication of anti-personnel landmines. In this regard, I wish to voice our gratitude to those who strove to make this idea a dream come true and to advocate the implementation of the Convention, as soon as possible, through concrete and tangible actions.

I thus wish Your Excellencies a good and enjoyable stay in our country, and I hope you will feel at home so that your work may be crowned with success.

Today we are on the threshold of a new millennium, but mankind is still bedevilled by daunting problems, among them the proliferation of anti-personnel landmines and their devastating effects on societies. In countries like Mozambique, Angola, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Nicaragua, to mention just a few, anti-personnel landmines continue to claim thousands of innocent lives, crippling and causing other nefarious effects. This state of affairs poses, for all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and society at large, a great challenge which merits thorough analysis and the adoption of appropriate measures aiming at the eradication of landmines.

The anti-personnel landmines problem is emerging as a priority issue on the international political agenda requiring, above all else, political will and concerted efforts from all our peoples and countries. Lasting solutions can be found for this persistent evil, which unfortunately continues to afflict many countries, even those which, until recently, were thought to be unaffected by these deadly devices.

This collective effort has already resulted in a strengthening of the partnership among many concerned actors, a partnership that we are witnessing and celebrating here in Maputo. The heterogeneity of the States Parties to this Convention makes this partnership a useful example of international cooperation among nations.

In this partnership that we have built, it is important to highlight the leading role of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, whose work has been widely recognized by the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize and which is being emulated.

We highly commend the growing interest in this Convention and in the struggle against landmines, in particular at the international level. It is gratifying to learn that what until quite recently seemed a dream for a few countries and organizations has become a worldwide project. This interest shows the potential vitality of the Convention as a tool for cooperation in the struggle against landmines. It is incumbent upon us to turn such an interest into a driving force behind the struggle against landmines, in order to ensure peace, security and prosperity of mankind.

This is Mozambique's vision regarding the Convention, the legal instrument that today is gathering hundreds of representatives from all over the world, united by a common objective: to find ways and means of rendering the Convention universal and thereby ensure its systematic and effective implementation. It was for that reason that Mozambique took part in the codification of this Convention and was also one of the first States to ratify it.

Hence, I am confident that the Maputo Meeting is an unparalleled opportunity for us to chart common strategies aimed at ensuring a better future for our peoples and countries. It is my hope that the international consensus on the common struggle against landmines, expressed by the holding of this conference, will be strengthened, especially if we bear in mind the fact that we are meeting in Mozambique and in a continent that suffered and continues to suffer from the consequences of these indiscriminately lethal weapons.

The fact that this Meeting is convened during our seventh consecutive year of peace and stability is particularly gratifying for us Mozambicans. These seven years have afforded Mozambicans the opportunity to draw their conclusions about the effects of landmines.

The peace and stability that rallied the Mozambican people has made possible the continuous exercise of national reconciliation and reconstruction. As a result, we have come to

realize that peace and stability are paramount elements of economic and social development, and provide firm ground for the consolidation of democracy.

Within the framework of the consolidation of our young multi-party democracy, the country is already getting ready for its second general elections, scheduled for the end of this year. The Government of Mozambique has approved the whole legal framework that will guide the electoral process. The people will once more be called upon to elect their representatives who, over the next five years, will discharge the daunting but lofty mission of consolidating democracy more and more and ensuring the country's sustainable development and thereby its integration into the inevitable globalization process .

Along with the consolidation of the democratic process, the country is yielding satisfactory and encouraging rates of economic growth, as reflected in the growth of the GDP, control of inflation, stability of the national currency, increase in foreign investment and gradual improvement in the living conditions of the people. We are aware that the economic growth is not yet reflected in a satisfactory increase in purchasing power and effective economic stability for Mozambican citizens. Landmines are one of the principal factors obstructing improvement in the living standards of our people.

In view of the three generations of landmines implanted in our territory, compounded by inaccurate mapping of most of them, my people live in uncertainty and permanent fear, which prevent them from effectively using vast areas of arable land. Surveys indicate that there are about 2 million landmines in Mozambique, while demining and destruction currently take place at the pace of only 11 thousand landmines per year; thus it will require approximately 160 years to clear all of them!

By virtue of its ratification, the Republic of Mozambique undertook to identify, report, demine and destroy all existing landmines in the country within the parameters set out in the Convention: four years for doing away with the stockpiles of landmines in our countries and ten years for completing the demining process. These targets cannot be negotiated for all the members of the Convention. What is negotiable, though, is the ways and means for their implementation. As a State Party to the Convention, we look forward to greater commitment on the part of your countries than that displayed up until today. My Government will do its utmost so that, ten years from now, in the year 2009, we may celebrate the eradication of landmines from the face of the earth.

Over the next years, concerted efforts will be necessary for us to win the long and protracted battle of building the national capacity of affected countries and developing new technologies for the demining process.

I would be remiss if I failed to use this opportunity to make special mention of the importance of providing assistance to the victims of landmines. The landmines issue is above all a humanitarian one, and is intertwined with the evil that befalls landmine victims.

Assistance to victims is, indeed, one of the major concerns of the international community. In Mozambique, thousands of our fellow citizens who have been mutilated by these devices are waiting for the day when we shall have the conditions required for increasing assistance and effecting the social and economic reintegration to which they are entitled. It is within this framework that my Government, in close cooperation with friendly countries, drew up a national assistance strategy for landmines victims. As the document will be presented in the next few days, you will have the opportunity to undertake a detailed assessment of this multidisciplinary programme we have worked out. In fact, I hope to see this strategy encompass health, job promotion and social reintegration activities, for without these we cannot talk about adequate assistance to landmine victims.

Implementation of the provisions of the Convention will require the mobilization of national, regional and international efforts and resources.

The landmine problem is an overriding issue in the political agenda of Southern Africa. At the Blantyre Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) adopted a declaration, which, *inter alia*, calls on member States to adopt national policies on the prohibition of anti-personnel landmines, on accession to the Ottawa Convention and on the allocation of resources for demining activities in the countries affected in the region.

Still on the regional scene, SADC set up a Demining Committee for the coordination of actions against landmines, and its chairmanship was entrusted to the Republic of Mozambique. This sub-regional effort must be shared by the rest of the continent and must also be supported by all on-going initiatives.

These actions must be complemented and strengthened by the work of the United Nations and a host of Governments and non-governmental organizations involved in this noble mission. Let us share experiences in order to meet the goals we have set for ourselves.

Our success shall, in the future, be judged in terms of fewer and fewer victims and the level of assistance we provide them, and also in terms of the extension of arable land and the degree of normalization of life in affected communities. For that reason, we are meeting in Maputo to reaffirm our commitment to eradicate one of the most inhumane weapons of war and terror -- the anti-personnel landmine -- so that in a not-too-distant future we can focus our attention on the search for solutions to problems on which no international consensus has yet been built.

At this point in time, when we are celebrating the entry into force of the Convention, we take note of the fact that the success of this international instrument depends mainly on the fulfillment of the obligations set out therein: demining, destruction of stockpiles, prohibition of the use and transfer of landmines, assistance and rehabilitation of victims, and the strengthening of international cooperation and assistance. These should be the common objectives of the

whole international community. Thus, we call on all countries that have not acceded to, or ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible. We call upon the international community at large, and civil society in particular, to redouble their efforts to render the Convention universal. A special call is addressed to the media to disseminate this message to all corners of the world.

Let us make this Maputo Meeting the foundation for ensuring the eradication of anti-personnel landmines and the reduction of the human crisis caused by them. To this end, we call on Governments, international organizations and civil society to reaffirm their desire to act and mobilize resources to alleviate human suffering.

When we were negotiating the Convention, we were aware of the mutual benefits deriving therefrom. We are happy that this objective is not only advocated by States Parties, but also by the international community as a whole. The Convention, per se, provides an unparalleled opportunity for States Parties to exchange experiences and expertise in order to address the aspirations of their respective populations, and to forge partnerships with all stakeholders. I wish therefore to reiterate our appeal for the adoption of necessary measures for the full implementation of this new instrument of international law and for it to be a source of inspiration and a benchmark for coming generations.

There is an African adage that states: "*We borrowed this land from our children and we must return it to them in good condition*". As we deal with the landmine issue and its destructive power, let us bear this adage in mind, let us reflect thoroughly on the pressing need to eliminate the scourge of landmines. We must leave Maputo ever more determined to build an alliance among States and civil society, and thus pool our talents in this great battle against landmines.

When the history of the Convention is written, it will be recorded that Oslo was the city where this initiative flourished and Ottawa was the city where it came to fruition when the Convention was opened for signature. Let us make Maputo, the capital city of one of the most mine-affected countries in the world, the place where the First Meeting of the States Parties laid the foundations for a world free from landmines.

In closing, I pray that the proceedings of this Meeting will lead to greater cooperation among nations.

For a world free from landmines, I solemnly declare open the proceedings of the First 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.

I thank you very much.
