Introduction/Universalization/Stockpile Destruction

Introduction

1. From 30 November to 4 December 2009, the international community gathered at a high level in Cartagena, Colombia to reaffirm the commitment of States, international organisations and civil society to ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and to achieving a world free of mines. At this historic event – the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World – the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, while inspired by their collective achievements, expressed their will to strengthen their efforts to overcome remaining challenges.

2. With the aim of supporting enhanced implementation and promotion of the Convention in the five year period following the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties adopted the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 and pledged to translate this action plan into sustainable progress while acknowledging their respective local, national and regional circumstances with regard to its practical implementation.

3. To ensure the effectiveness of the Cartagena Action Plan, the States Parties appreciate the need to regularly monitor progress of the application of the actions contained within it. The purpose of the Geneva Progress Report 2012-2013 is to support the application of the Cartagena Action Plan by measuring progress made during the period 8 December 2012 to 5 December 2013 and, in doing so, to highlight priority areas of work.

* Document submitted after the established deadline to allow the States parties to provide comprehensive information on their activities.
for the States Parties in the period between the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) and the 2014 Third Review Conference. It is the fourth in a series of annual progress reports prepared by the States Parties in advance of the Third Review Conference.

I. Universalization

4. Since the 2012 Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP), the Convention entered into force for Poland on 1 June 2013. The Convention has now entered into force for all 161 States that have ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention. One of the Convention’s 133 signatories has not yet ratified, accepted or approved the Convention: the Marshall Islands, notwithstanding that, in accordance with Article 18 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the Marshall Islands is obliged to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of the Convention.

5. Given their resolve to achieve universal adherence to the Convention and its norms, the States Parties agreed at the Cartagena Summit to seize every opportunity to promote ratification of and accession to the Convention, particularly in regions with low adherence to the Convention, and to promote and encourage adherence to the norms of the Convention. In light of the universalisation challenges noted in Cartagena and commitments made to overcome these challenges, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan has continued to make himself available to engage States not party to the Convention at a high level. In 2012, a similar commitment was made by Colombian music artist and anti-landmines activist, Juanes. In addition, in June 2013 it was announced that Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium would also engage in high level promotion of the Convention. The efforts of Prince Mired, Princess Astrid and Juanes are being supported by the European Union (EU) through an EU Council Decision in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan.

6. Individual States Parties continued their efforts to promote acceptance of the Convention, including through Belgium’s ongoing efforts as Coordinator of the informal Universalisation Contact Group.

7. The States Parties continued to use the annual United Nations General Assembly resolution on the universalisation and implementation of the Convention as one measure of States’ acceptance of the Convention’s norms. On 3 December 2012, this resolution was adopted by 165 votes to none, with 19 abstentions. The following 18 States not parties voted in favour of this resolution: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Oman, Poland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tonga and the United Arab Emirates.

8. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to encourage and support the universalisation efforts of all relevant partners, including international, regional and non-governmental organizations. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and its member organisations continued to promote acceptance of the Convention by States not party to the Convention, including in Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Egypt, Georgia, India, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tonga, United Arab

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1 Cartagena Action Plan, actions #1 and #3.
2 United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/32.
3 Cartagena Action Plan, action #2.
Emirates, United States of America and Viet Nam. In addition, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continued to promote adherence to the Convention at a high-level with a number of States not party, including the Mongolia, Oman and the United States of America. The ICRC has also promoted the Convention's humanitarian norms with non-State actors in various contexts. As well, on 6 June 2013, the 43rd General Assembly of the Organisation of American States adopted a resolution to urge States which have not yet done so to ratify or consider acceding to the Convention as soon as possible to ensure its full and effective implementation.

9. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to condemn and continue to discourage in every possible way any production, transfer and use of anti-personnel mines by any actor. Since the 12MSP, several States Parties, the ICBL and others again expressed deep concern about new use of anti-personnel mines in the Syrian Arab Republic.

10. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to encourage States not party to the Convention, particularly those that have professed support for the humanitarian objectives of the Convention, to participate in the work of the Convention. In 2013, in keeping with the States Parties’ tradition of openness, all States not party to the Convention were invited to participate in the Intersessional Work Programme and the 13MSP and its preparations. Ten States that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention registered to take part in the May 2013 Intersessional Work Programme and […] States not party to the Convention attended the 13MSP as observers.

11. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties agreed to continue promoting universal observance of the Conventions’ norms by condemning and taking appropriate steps to end the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by armed non-State actors. Since the 12MSP, one additional armed non-State actor signed the Geneva Call’s “Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action”, bringing to 43 the number of armed non-State actors that have now made this commitment. Nevertheless, the view was expressed that when engagement by non-governmental organizations of armed non-State actors is considered, vigilance is required to prevent terrorist organizations from exploiting the Ottawa Process for their own goals. Some States Parties continue to be of the view that when engagement with armed non-state actors is contemplated, States Parties concerned should be informed and their consent would be necessary in order for such an engagement to take place. One State Party reiterated its concern regarding the engagement on the basis of one previous signing of the “Deed of Commitment” of the Geneva Call as inconsistent with the above view.

II. Stockpile Destruction

12. At the close of the 12MSP there were six States Parties for which the obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained relevant. This included: Belarus, Greece and Ukraine, which had been non-compliant with respect to their Article 4 stockpile destruction obligation since 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively; Finland, which had previously indicated that it would need to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines; and Guinea-Bissau and South Sudan, which had indicated that they had discovered previously unknown stocks of anti-personnel mines. At the close of the 12MSP, 154 States Parties no
longer held stocks of anti-personnel mines (other than anti-personnel mines that States Parties are permitted to retain under Article 3), either because they never held stocks or because they had completed their destruction programmes. As of 7 December 2012, together the States Parties had reported the destruction of over 44.5 million anti-personnel mines.

13. Since the 12MSP, Belarus, Greece, and Ukraine continued their efforts to ensure the destruction of their stockpiles. In addition since the 12MSP, Finland reported on its stockpile destruction efforts and the Convention entered into force for Poland, which had previously indicated a need to destroy stocks. As well since the 12MSP, Guinea-Bissau and South Sudan did not report the destruction of previously unknown stocks of anti-personnel mines. Hence, there are seven States Parties for which the obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines remains relevant and there continues to be 154 States Parties which no longer hold stocks of anti-personnel mines. Of these 154 States Parties, two States Parties which are presumed not to hold stocks – Equatorial Guinea and Tuvalu – have not yet officially confirmed this by submitting initial transparency information as required in accordance with Article 7. Equatorial Guinea’s report was due on 28 August 1999 and Tuvalu’s on 28 August 2012. In addition, of these 154 States Parties, one State Party – Somalia – indicated in its initial transparency report that it was currently putting forth efforts to verify if in fact it holds anti-personnel mines in its stockpiles and would report on its findings.

14. The 12MSP’s Geneva Progress Report again acknowledged that the complexity of destruction of PFM1-type anti-personnel mines combined with the limited number of entities capable of destroying these mines, the vast numbers of these mines held by Belarus and Ukraine, the inadvisability of transferring these mines for destruction and the high cost of destruction had resulted in a compelling implementation challenge for both States Parties. The 12MSP’s Geneva Progress Report also recalled that the destruction of PFM mines is significantly more challenging and complex, technically and financially, than the destruction of other anti-personnel mines.

15. The Geneva Progress Report 2011-2012 recorded that, at the close of the 12MSP, Belarus had 3,356,636 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remaining to be destroyed and that destruction was pending the completion of the construction of the destruction facility and the environmental and safety assessment. As of 27 May 2013, Belarus possessed the same number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines to be destroyed.

16. On 27 May 2013, Belarus reported to the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction that the construction of the destruction facility for the PFM-1 mines in its final stages. Belarus also indicated that the air and solid wastes from the detonation of the mines would be recycled in accordance with European Union standards and that the European Commission was financing the project at the level of 3.9 million euros. Belarus further indicated that the construction project was 90 per cent ready, that a timeframe for the start of the destruction process could not be provided yet and that construction is awaiting the set-up of chambers to clean the air emanating from the destruction and the set-up of the alarm system. Belarus reported that at the beginning of 2013, the project was audited by the European Commission and that in April 2013 an agreement was signed between the Government of Belarus and the European Commission to extend their cooperation on this project. Further coordination meeting between the Government of Belarus, the European Commission and the Spanish company EXPAL will take place.

17. […]

18. The Geneva Progress Report 2011-2012 recorded that, at the close of the 12MSP, Greece had 953,285 stockpiled anti-personnel mines. The Geneva Progress Report also recalled that negotiations were ongoing with regards to contractual issues between the
competent authorities and Hellenic Defence Systems EAS and that in the meantime the Greek Armed Forces had proceeded to locate the mines in a single military ammunition warehouse so that destruction could proceed immediately once the green light would be given by the Ministry of Defence. As of 27 May 2013, Greece possessed the same number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines to be destroyed. On 27 May 2013, Greece reported to the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction that a modified contract for the destruction of the remaining mines was signed on 29 April 2013 by EAS and the Greek Ministry of Defence. Greece indicated that the destruction will take place in the facilities of the Bulgarian subcontractor, the company VIDEK, with funds from the Greek Ministry of Defence. The Greek Armed Forces will be proactive, with the transport of the mines to the Greek-Bulgarian border taking place with the escort of police and military forces and with Greek officers present, on a random sampling basis, during both the delivery and the destruction of the mines.

19. […]

20. The Geneva Progress Report 2011-2012 recorded that, at the close of the 12MSP, Ukraine had 5,922,485 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remaining to be destroyed. Ukraine indicated that as of September 2013, 280,000 PFM-1 were destroyed with assistance provided within the second phase of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization/Partnership for Peace Trust Fund project on small arms, light weapons, ammunition. As of September 2013, Ukraine possessed 5,642,485 stockpiled anti-personnel mines to be destroyed.

21. Ukraine also informed that in order to increase the pace of demilitarization it was agreed to include the destruction of the 3 million units of PFM-1 into the mentioned second phase of North Atlantic Treaty Organization/Partnership for Peace Trust Fund project with the understanding that this process will be funded by the contribution of the European Union of around 1.8 million Euros. Ukraine also reported that all necessary legislative procedures were completed to endorse the implementation agreement with the NSPA (the former North Atlantic Treaty Organization Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA)) in order to supervise this process and costs and that the European Commission declared that it reserved funds for the destruction of all anti-personnel mines stockpiles in Ukraine through its European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. Ukraine further reported that additional coordination measures were implemented before the actual funds are transferred to Pavlograd. On February 1, 2013 Agreements on Disposal of PFM-1 (1S) Anti-Personnel Mines were signed between the NSPA and the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine as well as between Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and Pavlograd Chemical Plant at the NSPA office in Kiev.

22. Ukraine also reported that it was subsequently informed by the European Union and NATO partners that the assessment process of NSPA performance on this particular project is in its final phase as the reports were transmitted to Brussels for approval and that it was expected that the European Union could start transferring the resources through NSPA during October 2013. Ukraine indicated that it still expects the financial support pledged by the European Commission to carry out the destruction process. In addition, with the purpose of raising awareness of the global community about this project and the existing problems, as well as to explore the possibilities of expanding the number of financial contributors, several information events were organized in 2013 together with Ukraine’s NATO partners at NATO Headquarters in Brussels and at the State enterprise “Ukroboronservis” in Kiev.

23. […]

24. Concern was again expressed that three States Parties have failed to comply with the four-year deadline to destroy or ensure the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned, possessed or under their jurisdiction or control. The early completion of stockpile
destruction programmes was encouraged and it was recalled that the Cartagena Action Plan provides guidelines for getting back into the status of compliance.\(^7\) It was recalled that at the Cartagena Summit, it was agreed that States Parties that have missed their deadlines for completion of obligations under Article 4 will provide an expected completion date\(^8\). It was noted that the States Parties in question have not yet done so. It was also noted that all States Parties have a role in being vigilant in ensuring that those with stockpile destruction programmes are on track to meet their obligations, including through the provision of international cooperation and assistance. In addition, it was again noted that Belarus, Greece and Ukraine each have expressed a deep commitment to the Convention and the fulfilment of their obligations.

25. At the 27 May 2013 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, Finland indicated that the destruction of its stockpile commenced shortly after entry into force with the destruction of 220,455 mines and that the destruction process will be finalised by the end of 2015, well before the deadline provided by the Convention. As well, Finland reported that 809,308 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remain to be destroyed.

26. At the 27 May 2013 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, the Co-Chairs recalled that in action #12 of the Cartagena Action Plan, it was agreed that “all States Parties will, when previously unknown stockpiles are discovered after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed, report such discoveries in accordance with their obligations under Article 7, take advantage of other informal means to share such information and destroy these mines as a matter of urgent priority.”

27. At the 27 May 2013 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, it was recalled that at the 12MSP, Guinea-Bissau and South Sudan, which had previously reported previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines but had not yet reported the destruction of these mines. In addition, it was recalled that Côte d’Ivoire reported to the 12MSP that it had destroyed previously unknown stocks and that additional information would be furnished in 2013.

28. Guinea-Bissau did not provide an update on the matter of its discovery of previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

29. At the 27 May 2013 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, South Sudan recalled that it reported a small number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines discovered in former military camps of the Sudanese armed forces. South Sudan further reported that the mines in question are a small part of a larger weapons cache that was discovered, which will need to be destroyed in its totality as soon as South Sudan gets the funding and when all necessary arrangements are completed. South Sudan also indicated that it does not have any other known stockpiles.

30. At the 27 May 2013 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, Côte d’Ivoire indicated that the military and political authorities of Côte d’Ivoire discovered 1,818 previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines and that 1,526 of these mines were destroyed and 292 kept for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention.

\(^7\) Cartagena Action Plan, actions #7, #8 and #9.
\(^8\) Cartagena Action Plan, action #9.