



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Japan's Presentation

On behalf of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

The workshop on Article 7 Transparency Reports and the Oslo Action Plan, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thursday, 9 March, Geneva Switzerland

Japan has the pleasure of Chairing the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, working together with the Netherlands, Sudan and Thailand in this regard.

The Committee was established for the purpose of assisting the States Parties in the full implementation of Article 6 of the Convention concerning cooperation and assistance, in line with the understanding that ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines is a shared commitment.

In this regard, the Committee has the mandate to, amongst other:

- Promote cooperation and assistance and foster partnerships
- Coordinate with other implementation mechanisms established by the States Parties
- Review relevant information provided by States Parties on the implementation of the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan; and
- Present preliminary observations and conclusions and recommendations at informal and formal meetings of the Convention

Dear colleagues,

Cooperation and assistance has always been an integral part of our Convention. The Oslo Action Plan reaffirms that while each State Party is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, the States Parties stress that enhanced cooperation can support implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible. In this regard, Cooperation and Assistance is critical to getting us closer to the 2025 aspirations of the States Parties.

As you can appreciate, the Oslo Action Plan contains six important actions which commit both affected States and States in a position to provide assistance to strengthen implementation.

The Oslo Action Plan commits affected States to:

- Develop resource mobilisation plans and use all mechanisms within the Convention to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance, including through their annual Article 7 transparency reports and by taking advantage of the individualised approach; and to
- Strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. And, where relevant, establish an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.

The Oslo Action Plan also requests donor countries to:

- Provide assistance to States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention; and to
- Coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties, where possible using existing mechanisms.

The Oslo Action Plan further request that all States Parties:

- Do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible alternative and/or innovative sources; and
- Explore opportunities for cooperation,(international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South) including making mutually supporting clearance commitments in border areas.

As with other areas of the Oslo Action Plan, there are several indicators for each of these Actions.

Given the importance of Cooperation and Assistance to the successful implementation of the Convention, we want to hear from you on your efforts to implement these important commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.

In this regard, we would ask that your Article 7 Reports contain detailed information on matters related to cooperation and assistance.

Like other Committee Chairs mentioned earlier, we also want to hear about your cooperation and assistance challenges and your outstanding requirements for assistance.

At the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance also established some priorities for 2022 including the following:

1. To continue to encourage States Parties to take advantage of this platform to share their challenges in achieving their commitments related to Article 5 and/or victim assistance as well as any other implementation challenges.
2. To continue promoting the establishment of national mine action platforms.

3. To continue working on the online reporting tool to make it available for use by the 2022 reporting period and promote its voluntary use.
4. To continue our work on strengthening the Cooperation Fund to support the exchange of best practices between States Parties to the Convention available to States Parties that wish to take advantage of the funding and to those States Parties that would like to provide financial support to the fund.
5. To continue seeking opportunities to strengthen cooperation and assistance in support of the fulfilment by mine affected States Parties of the Article 5 and victim assistance commitments through activities in Geneva as well as regional and national activities.

Dear Colleagues,

Apart from being an obligation under the treaty, it is our firm conviction that transparency and the sharing of information through your Article 7 Report and through other means such as the individualized approach is essential.

As part of its understanding that information sharing is of great importance to cooperation and assistance, the Committee on Cooperation and Assistance first proposed the establishment of an online reporting tool to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2018 which was supported by subsequent Presidents. Work on the tool began following the Fourth Review Conference.

What is important to share is that the online reporting tool, as communicated in 2018:

- Does not create additional reporting requirements other than those we have assumed in the Guide to Reported as updated at the 19MSP,

- It does not replace the option to provide reports through the current system.
- It would also assist in the analysis work of the ISU and the Convention's Committees and therefore facilitate our collaborative work in the implementation of the Convention.

Following the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee on Cooperation and Assistance has developed, with the support of the ISU, and with financial support provided by Canada, an online reporting form, which we are hopeful will make reporting easier, helping you to ensure that all the information is provided in accordance with the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan. The online reporting format has been modelled directly on the Guide to Reporting.

For those States Parties without outstanding commitments under the Convention, it is just a question of ticking a few boxes and submitting the report.

We have asked the ISU to present the online reporting format later on in the workshop to demonstrate how it will work and how we intend to proceed from here.

We look forward to reviewing your Article 7 reports this year and we thank you in advance for considering including information on your efforts in line with the Actions on Cooperation and Assistance.

Should you need any additional information on how to best report on cooperation and assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Committee or to the ISU for support.

We look forward to working with all of you in the lead up to the intersessional meeting in June and on the road to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties.

Thank you.