

Talking Points for Ambassador Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director
First Preparatory Meeting for the Second Review Conference of the CCM
Palais des Nations, Geneva, 29 June 2020

Review of the operation and status of the Convention 2016-2020

The Review Document serve as an important tool for States as they seek to develop a comprehensive set of actions in the Lausanne Action Plan. The LAP will indeed have the greatest chance of success if it is evidence-based and informed by the lessons learnt over the previous five-year period. In this context, the GICHD believes that, in general terms, the Review Document is well structured and follows a clear logic that should help the elaboration of the next five years' action plan.

Lausanne Action Plan

Overarching points (process and format)

- The development of the LAP will be the result of a collective effort and we all can play our part. I would like to commend the Presidency on the way that you have framed this effort, particularly under the current challenging circumstances. The decision to provide stakeholders with clear guidance on the feedback that is expected is already paying dividends in terms of shaping the LAP. This is evidenced by the high quality of the 'Elements of the Lausanne Action Plan' document that has already been shared.
- The GICHD very much supports the Presidency's decision that the action plan will contain concrete and measurable actions to bring forward implementation and the realization of the objectives set forth in the Convention during the next five-year period.

Cross cutting elements

- The GICHD supports the inclusion of a dedicated section covering cross cutting elements and agrees with those elements already specified in the document.
- There would indeed be utility in framing these cross-cutting elements as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely) actions that can be measured. However if - for the sake of simplicity - the decision is to include them as overarching principles, then care will need to be taken to ensure that they are properly mainstreamed across the actions presented thought the rest of the plan.
 - This is particularly relevant with regards to elements such as gender and diversity: the participation of all groups in all aspects of the implementation of the convention is applicable for the overall action plan, not just a specific area.

Survey and Clearance

- The GICHD agrees with the general considerations as well as with all of the points already listed as possible actions.
- Actions included in the section on 'Survey and Clearance' should reflect a continued focus on IMAS-compliant Land Release processes and standardized approaches to reporting.
- For several affected states, the Survey and Clearance section of the LAP will effectively be a plan for completion. With this in mind, it may be useful to include an action on building national capacity to deal with any unknown contamination that is discovered once survey and clearance has been completed - otherwise known as 'Residual Contamination'.

Risk Reduction Education

- The GICHD enthusiastically supports the decision to include a dedicated section on Risk Reduction Education in the LAP.
- It may be worth considering a simplification of the title so that it simply named 'Risk Education'. Such an adjustment would be in line with terminology currently in use across the mine action sector.

International Cooperation and Assistance

- It is good to see that cooperation and assistance between States has been enhanced in recent years through the 'country coalition' initiative. National ownership is indeed the cornerstone of any effective mine action intervention, and this approach is most successful when clear guidance and direction is provided by the affected state. The interconnected and often sequential relationship between national strategies and workplans, Article 4 extension requests and national workplans can be harnessed for use as the framework within which country coalitions are pursued, ultimately ensuring appropriate prioritization, coordination and resource mobilization.

Transparency

- It is important to stress that the means to ensure transparency are already available. Moreover, in February 2020, standardized minimum data requirements for mine action, that include relevant provisions for CCM reporting, were approved and published by the IMAS Review Board. By harnessing these instruments, and by utilizing modern information management tools such as "IMSMA Core" and "Global Awareness of Mine Action" (GAMA) dash boards, States are afforded the potential to support evidence-based analysis in real time.

Swiss/GICHD Photo Exhibition

I would like to inform you about a photo exhibition co-organized by the Swiss Presidency and the GICHD in the framework of the Review Conference. This exhibition will aim to show the multiple negative effects of cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war on communities around the world. It will also highlight the people whose lives have been affected by these weapons or who are dedicating their lives to eliminating the threat they pose. The photo exhibition will be presented in Geneva, at the "Parc des Bastions", from 17 to 31 August.