

ICBL Memo for Government Delegates

**Thirteen Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty  
& First Preparatory Meeting for the Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty  
2–6 December 2013, Geneva**

**What are 13MSP and the Preparatory Meeting about?**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (13MSP) of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) will take place from 2 to 5 December 2013 at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland. It will be followed by a one-day Preparatory Meeting for the Third Review Conference of the MBT on 6 December 2013 at the same venue.

The 13MSP and the Review Conference Preparatory Meeting will take place just over half a year ahead of one of the key milestones in the life of the treaty, the Third Review Conference, which will be held in Maputo, Mozambique in mid-2014. The 13MSP will provide an opportunity for States Parties to present progress, challenges, plans, and requirements for assistance and cooperation to achieve the objectives of the treaty and the commitments they made under the 2009 Cartagena Action Plan (CAP). The Preparatory Meeting will be an opportunity to exchange views and share expectations in regard to substance, structure, and main outcomes of the Review Conference.

The 13MSP will be presided over by the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations in Geneva, and the Preparatory Meeting for the Review Conference will be chaired by Mozambique. The meeting is open to States Parties, States not party, relevant international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

The MBT opened for signature in 1997 and entered into force in 1999. There are now 161 States Parties to the treaty.

**What are states expected to do at these meetings?**

At the 13MSP:

- States Parties are expected to **report on the progress they have made and their future plans** on all relevant treaty obligations and CAP commitments (clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, mine risk education, retained mines, national legislation, cooperation and assistance, etc.).
- States not party to the MBT are expected to **report on the steps they have taken to join the treaty**.
- States are expected to **actively participate in discussions** throughout the MSP, in particular on the following **key issues**:
  - Use and allegations of antipersonnel mine use by States

There have been serious allegations of use of antipersonnel mines by the armed forces of at least three States Parties: South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen, plus the ongoing investigations and legal proceedings in regard to use in 2009 in Turkey. In addition, two States not party, Syria and Myanmar, used mines in 2013. Mine use is the gravest violation of the treaty and the ban norm. All instances of use or

allegations of use should be of serious concern to all States Parties and be publically addressed and condemned during the 13MSP. States Parties should call on and engage with the concerned states to ensure no new mine use in the future. See the ICBL's recent statement in this regard: <http://www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/Library/News/ICBL-Compliance-statement-ISC-2013>

➤ New Extension Requests for Clearance Deadline

*Chad, Germany, Mozambique, Niger, Serbia, Sudan, and Turkey* have presented their draft requests for extension of their clearance deadline under Article 5 of the treaty at the intersessional Standing Committee meetings in May 2013. The 12MSP President and the Co-Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees have been analyzing the requests. At the 13MSP, States Parties should engage in discussions on these requests and decide on their approval. The extension requests are available on the ISU website at: <http://www.apminebanconvention.org/background-status-of-the-convention/clearing-mined-areas/article-5-extensions/states-parties-requests-for-extension-deadlines/>

At the Preparatory Meeting for the Review Conference:

- States Parties are expected to share views on the substance and structure of the Review Conference as well as on the main outcomes of the Conference. Discussion papers for some decisions will be available on the ISU website prior to the meeting.

**How can governments register, prepare for and participate?**

➤ Invitation

A note verbale by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on convening the 13MSP was circulated on 15 February 2013. In addition to the note verbale, an invitation letter by the High Representative of the UN for Disarmament Affairs on convening the 13MSP was circulated on 4 March 2013. Copies of the note verbale and invitation letter are available on the [UNOG](#) website.

➤ Registration

To participate in the meetings, all government delegates should submit a **note verbale** by **Friday, 22 November 2013**, to the Executive Secretary of the Meeting of the States Parties to the MBT, at the following address:

APLC Secretariat  
Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties  
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)  
Palais des Nations, office C-113.1  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Fax: (+011-41) 22-917-00-54  
E-mail: [aplc@unog.ch](mailto:aplc@unog.ch)  
Website: <http://www.unog.ch/aplc>

➤ Background Information

All background documents for the meetings, including the draft Geneva progress report, agenda of the meeting, and administrative information are/will be available on the ISU website at: <http://www.apminebanconvention.org/meetings-of-the-states-parties/13msp/>

*For any questions related to the meetings contact the Implementation Support Unit of the MBT at [isu@apminebanconvention.org](mailto:isu@apminebanconvention.org).*