

Memo for Government Delegates
Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty



What is the 16MSP about?

The 16th Meeting of States Parties (16MSP) of the Mine Ban Treaty will take place from 18 to 21 December at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria.

The 16MSP is an annual formal meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty. It will provide an opportunity for States Parties to present progress, challenges, plans, and requirements for assistance and cooperation to achieve their treaty obligations and the commitments they made under the 2014 Maputo Action Plan (MAP) and Maputo+15 declaration.

The 16MSP will be presided over by H.E. Thomas Hajnoczi, Ambassador of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva. Ambassador Hajnoczi will focus on Universalization, Victim Assistance and Mine Clearance of the Treaty. The meeting is open to States Parties, States not party, relevant international organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The Mine Ban Treaty opened for signature in 1997 and entered into force in 1999. There are now 162 States Parties to the treaty.

What are states expected to do at this meeting?

At the 16MSP:

- States Parties are expected to **report on the progress they have made and their plans** on all relevant treaty obligations and MAP commitments (mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, mine risk education, retained mines, national legislation, cooperation and assistance, etc.)
- States not party are expected **announce accession or report on the steps they have taken to join the treaty.**
- States are expected to **actively participate in discussions** throughout the 16MSP, in particular on the following **key issues:**

➤ Achieving the goal of 2025

States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty are committed to an aspirational deadline of 2025 for completion of mine clearance and other treaty obligations. The goal of 2025 was adopted in the Maputo +15 Declaration at the Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty in 2014. ICBL believes that in the vast majority of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty mine clearance can be completed before 2025, with many finishing long before that date. Achieving the goal of 2025 is a priority of Austria, the President of the Mine Ban Treaty.

➤ Use of antipersonnel mine use by states

In recent years, antipersonnel mines were used by the armed forces of Myanmar, North Korea, and Syria. Any use should be of serious concern to States Parties and be publically addressed and condemned during the 16MSP. States Parties should call on and engage with the concerned states to ensure no new mine use in the future.

➤ New extension requests for mine clearance deadlines

Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, and Zimbabwe have presented requests for extension of their clearance deadline under Article 5 of the treaty at the intersessional meetings in 2017. Treaty's Article 5 Committee has analyzed the requests. At the 16MSP, States Parties should engage in discussions on these requests and decide on their approval. The extension requests are available on the ISU [website](#).

Ukraine is in violation of Article 5 after missing its 1 June 2016 deadline for clearance without being granted an extension. It has been urged by States Parties and the ICBL to submit an extension request for mine clearance, but it has not done so (as of 6th November 2017).

How can governments register, prepare and participate?

• **Invitation**

A [note verbale](#) by UN Secretary-General on convening the 16MSP was circulated to all Permanent Missions in New York on 30 January 2017.

• **Registration**

Everyone planning to attend the meeting should register by Friday, 8 December 2017. Registration involves the following:

- (1) Each delegation must officially notify the Executive Secretary of the 16MSP of the composition of its delegation to the following aplc@unog.ch or (fax:+41 917 00 34); and,
- (2) Each delegate must have a badge to access the Vienna International Centre. The email address of those needing a badge must be included in the note verbale addressed to the Executive Secretary of the 16MSP or sent separately to aplc@unog.ch. Once the delegate's email address has been provided, each delegate will receive further guidance on the way to provide the photo needed for the badge. For any issue and/or assistance regarding the photo upload, delegates are advised to contact the Pass Office team at passoffice@unvienna.org.

• **Background Information**

All background documents for the meeting, including the agenda and administrative information, are available on the ISU's [website](#). For any questions related to the meeting contact the Implementation Support Unit of the Mine Ban Treaty at isu@apminebanconvention.org.