



APMBC Intersessionals 2018  
Switzerland

**Statement on Clearance (Article 5)**

Mister Chair

Switzerland welcomes the Committee's preliminary findings and wishes to share a few additional thoughts and considerations.

Faithful and diligent implementation of the obligations derived from Art. 5 are essential for the long-term sustainability of our Convention. We have developed a process under the Convention to support the implementation of this article. This process enables us to provide the necessary guidance to States parties having Art. 5 obligations, yet which is flexible enough to take into account different circumstances including those impeding or delaying clearance obligations. Following its provisions is therefore essential.

Accordingly, we welcome the timely submission of the extension request of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan and the United Kingdom, as well as the submission of Art. 7 reports by 23 of the 31 States Parties with outstanding obligations under Art. 5. We also acknowledge and appreciate the submission by Peru and Iraq of documents as requested in the decisions on their respective extension requests.

We however remain concerned by the fact that 3 State Parties have not submitted updated work plans and that 8 States Parties (Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Oman, Somalia, Tajikistan and Yemen) with outstanding Art. 5 obligations have not submitted Art. 7 reports. Many of these State Parties have not submitted their transparency reports for several years in a row. We call upon all States Parties to comply with their obligations.

The reports submitted under Art. 7 as well as the interventions made by State Parties with Art. 5 deadlines in 2020 emphasise the importance of communicating in a transparent manner the objectives achieved and the remaining challenges. This transparency is of utmost importance not only for the Committee on Art. 5 Implementation, which relies on these inputs for the fulfilment of its mandate, but also for all States Parties. To give an example, transparency is key to sustainable cooperation and assistance under the Treaty, providing a number of essential information to donors, potential donors and operators in the field.

Consistency and clarity are key factors if we want to have an understanding of the challenges ahead of us. Consequently, we would like to encourage State Parties to use the terminology and provide information in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), that is, by disaggregating areas cancelled by non-technical survey, reduced by technical survey and areas cleared. Additionally, Switzerland wishes to underline the importance of using the “Guide to Reporting” adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> MSP, which provides clear guidelines on how to report on challenges remaining and the successes accomplished.

Thank you.