



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings
22 June – 24 June 2021
Switzerland

Thematic Session – Strengthening Compliance Measures

Madam / Mister Chair,

We would like to thank the Committee on Cooperative Compliance for having prepared this thematic session.

In Oslo, we renewed our commitment to ensure compliance with the Convention's obligations. Acting upon this commitment is of course of utmost importance to reach the Convention's objectives.

Due to our constant engagement, the Convention enjoys an enviable success. It has a broad membership, established a global norm against the use of anti-personnel mines, an excellent rate of compliance, especially when it comes to its general obligations, and successes related to its implementation are manifold.

Yet, challenges exist also when it comes to the respect of its obligations. In light of this, we would like to underline the following points:

- We would like to thank Sudan and Yemen, which have respectively alleged and confirmed use of anti-personnel mines for the updates they have provided and for continuing to invest efforts to address outstanding challenges with a view to bringing closure to these cases. It is important to act transparently and in a spirit of cooperation in line with Action 48 of the Oslo Action Plan. We would like to also extend our thanks to the Committee on cooperative compliance for their continuing efforts in this area;
- Contaminated States whose deadline have expired and that have not submitted an extension request should do so as soon as possible. Practice within this Convention confirms that failing to do so amounts to non-compliance with the

Convention. We therefore invite Eritrea to submit an extension request as soon as possible;

- The Oslo Action Plan has underlined the importance of submitting an article 7 report yearly, for taking forward the implementation of the Convention. This applies in particular to those States Parties having outstanding obligations under Article 4 and Article 5. In this context, we note with regret that a significant number of States having such outstanding obligations have not yet submitted their Article 7 reports, and we encourage them to submit it as soon as possible;
- Due to this deficit in reporting, there is a lack of clarity regarding whether a number of States Parties have contaminated land and therefore Article 5 obligations. We call upon these States to share information through an Article 7 transparency report, and, if necessary, engage in clearing contaminated areas and submit an extension request;
- States parties with active obligations that have not provided information on the implementation of these obligations for two or more consecutive years should submit as soon as possible an Article 7 transparency report and accept the assistance of the President in line with Action 49 of the Oslo Action Plan.

These, we believe, are matters of compliance that require the attention of the Coordination Committee as well as of the President. We should exploit the possibilities offered by these mechanisms and of the measures contained in the Oslo Action Plan, ensuring to work in a cooperative spirit and avoiding creating additional and parallel structures.

Thank you.