

Committee on Article 5 Implementation Opening Remarks – 2020-06-30

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Dear colleagues, Canada has the honour to chair the Committee on Article 5 Implementation this year, working together with Austria, Norway and Zambia.

For those less familiar with the Committee's work, our purpose is to intensify efforts, including those outlined in the Oslo Action Plan, to ensure that the obligations of States Parties under Article 5 are fully implemented as soon as possible.

Our mandate includes, amongst other:

- reviewing relevant information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation, and on the implementation of the commitments contained in the Oslo Action Plan;
- presenting preliminary observations at the Intersessional Meetings, and conclusions and recommendations at the Meeting of the States Parties;
- preparing and submitting in advance of the Meeting of the States Parties an analysis of each request for an Article 5 extended deadline; and finally
- considering in every aspect of our work matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

In implementing the Committee's mandate, at this meeting we are presenting preliminary observations, which are based on the information provided by States Parties within Article 7 reports, as well as in updated work plans and

extension requests. These observations are now available on the Convention's web site and will be sent to the States concerned with some requests for additional information.

I want to thank all States that have engaged with the Committee and have provided information on Article 5 implementation efforts. I also want to congratulate States on the progress that has been achieved, and let me assure you that our Committee is fully committed to supporting you in your efforts to implement Article 5 obligations.

From our observations, I would like to note that we have seen a slight increase compared to last year in the number of transparency reports submitted by States Parties implementing Article 5 obligations. We have also noted in many cases an increase in the quality of the reports. At the same time, some States Parties implementing Article 5 obligations have not submitted reports for several years, which is a source of concern. Our Committee wishes to emphasize the importance of submitting outstanding reports in order to inform the States Parties of the progress made in implementation of the Convention.

We recognize that COVID-19 has made this year more challenging for everyone. In many cases this has led to Article 7 reports, work plans or extension requests being submitted late or not having been submitted yet. In such cases, the Committee reiterates its invitation to States Parties to communicate with us and provide an update on the status of progress of the outstanding documents to be submitted.

Following the adoption of the Oslo Action Plan, we need to develop a baseline on the implementation of Article 5 and the relevant commitments of the Oslo Action Plan, including those related to mine-risk education. In order to have the most accurate picture possible, it is essential that outstanding reports be submitted as soon as possible. We count on your collaboration to this effect, and remain available to assist if need be.

Regarding extension requests, which are a key aspect of our Committee's work, I will be providing an update later today at the start of the session where States Parties will have the opportunity to present their extension requests.

Finally, I would like to underline that our Committee has organized a panel discussion to be held on Wednesday afternoon, which will look at "Addressing anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature under the Convention's framework". We hope that you will all be able join us for this event.

Dear colleagues, our Committee is honoured to work with you in this first year of implementation of the Oslo Action Plan, and on the road to the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any support we can provide. Thank you very much.