

**Presentation on Alternatives to the use of live anti-personnel mines for training – Presentation by  
The Development Initiative (TDI)**

**1600-1645**

I am happy to be with you again this afternoon for what I believe will be a very interesting session on alternatives to the use of live anti-personnel mines kept for training purposes.

We will hear a presentation from Stephen Saffin, Chief Operating Officer of The Development Initiative (TDI) on the matter the use of alternative devices for permitted purposes under the Convention.

But before we hear this presentation, let me start by a few words on the matters covered by Article 3 of the Convention, the retention of anti-personnel mines for reasons permitted by the Convention.

There are currently 66 States Parties that retain approximately 153,000 anti-personnel mines under Article 3. It is a sizeable number of mines retained but information received from States Parties tells us that this number is continuing to decrease every year.

Since the Fourth Review Conference for example, 3 States Parties – Botswana, Brazil and Chile – have indicated that they no longer retain anti-personnel mines for training purposes.

- Most States Parties retaining mines have submitted voluntary information on the actual use of their retained mines and I would like to thank them for providing information.
- However, some States Parties that have reported that they retain anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 3 have not submitted annual transparency information on their retained mines for many years. Updated information from these States would be welcome and is an obligations under the treaty.
- Article 3 of the Convention indicates that the amount of retained mines shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for the permitted purposes highlighted under Article 3.
- Likewise, Action#16 of the *Oslo Action Plan* indicates that States Parties will annually review the number of mines retained to ensure that they do not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes and will destroy all anti-personnel mines that exceed that number.

Some States Parties have reported the same number of retained anti-personnel mines every year for a number of years. In this regard, I would like to highlight how important it is that those States Parties which have retained anti-personnel mines under Article 3 report on the use and plans for use of these mines on an annual basis.

- In Action#17 of the *Oslo Action Plan*, States Parties committed to explore available alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes where possible.

It is very important that States Parties keep the door open to exploring these alternatives. I do believe that in many cases it *is* possible to substitute live mines for training mines for

training purposes. A number of States Parties, such as Australia, are already doing it and more States Parties have indicated that they are exploring options. I encourage all States Parties to follow their lead.

- I would now like to give the floor TDI to provide a presentation on their experience in the use of 3D printed training mines in clearance operations. Stephen you have the floor.

Thank you very much Stephen.

## **Conclusion**

- This was a very short session but a very valuable one. We have never had a presentation on alternative uses to anti-personnel mines for Article 3 purposes and I thought it was time to present these alternatives as we review our policies and make efforts to implement our Oslo Action Plan Commitments. We aim to continue our work in this regard and, if possible, hold further meetings to further promote these alternatives.
- We will be placing Stephen's presentation on the Convention's website.
- Finally colleagues, many of the States that retain mines and have not reported on the use of their retained mines will receive a letter from me requesting information in this regard. This will help us have a concrete baseline for the 18MSP on where we sit on this issue.

Thank you again to TDI for their work and for their support today on this matter.

I will be back with you in 15 minutes for the session on the road towards the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties and the closing of this year's intersessional meetings.