



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Intersessional Meeting of the Standing Committees of the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production
and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

**Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and
Mine Action Technologies – Updates by State Parties that were
granted extensions on deadlines for implementing Article 5 / that
are in the process of implementing Article 5**

Geneva, 20 – 22 June 2011

Check against delivery

Mr. Co-Chair

My delegation thanks you for giving us the floor. We also thank all the state parties, which have provided us with detailed updates on the progress achieved regarding article 5 implementation. We would like to share with you some general observations.

First however, Switzerland would like to commend Nigeria on the announcement of completion of the obligations under article 5 of the convention. We are looking forward to receive the completion report and thank Nigeria for all its efforts in this matter.

At the same time, we are calling upon all State Parties, which have still to complete clearance obligations to refer to the example of Nigeria. As Co-chairs of the Standing Committee together with Colombia we believe that the frank and open exchange between formerly affected State Parties and State Parties with ongoing clearance obligations can be an important tool to advance the implementation of the Convention. Colombia and Switzerland have identified the promotion of south-south co-operation as a priority during their co-chairing of this standing committee, and we have emphasised south south co-operation for example during the workshop referred to by the Co-chairs yesterday. The discussions among participants of the workshop have demonstrated that such exchanges can be highly valuable for the implementation of the convention. We would therefore encourage such an exchange between Nigeria and affected states. We thank Nigeria for its readiness to share experiences and best practices. We congratulate Nigeria once more for the important achievement for Nigeria and for the Convention.

Let's turn to remaining challenges, which are in the responsibility of us all:

Firstly, we recall that the credibility of the convention to a great extent depends on the fulfilment and completion of the article 5 obligations within the given time frames. Remaining article 5 obligations have not only an important impact on the way this convention is implemented, but it has also – and let's not forget this crucial point – a direct impact on affected peoples lives.

Secondly, my delegation would like to highlight and share with you some lessons learned Switzerland has identified:

- State parties should spare no effort to identify as soon as possible all areas under their jurisdiction or control, in which AP mines are suspected or known to be placed. **We are still faced with too many state parties who do not understand the true extent of their article 5 problem;**
- We would like to highlight as a donor state that the **presentation of detailed and precise information on progress made, remaining challenges and specific milestones in regard to clearance are crucial.**

- In our view, one aspect to be highlighted refers to the importance of **surveys** used to assess the contamination and impact of areas with mines and ERW: the results of surveys mostly decide over the following allocation of resources for clearance programmes. Therefore the quality of repeated surveys is of utmost importance.
- State parties not affected bear additional responsibilities: although resources are scarce everywhere, support and assistance is needed more than ever before. **The efficient and effective use of international assistance has to be coupled with increased national ownership and co-ordination between national and international stakeholder allow for maximum impact.**
- Ensuring **financial predictability** for clearance programmes becomes ever more challenging. We hope that we will be able to discuss this issue in more detail and in a result-oriented manner in the standing committee on co-operation, assistance and resources.

My delegation is of the view that the aforementioned aspects also refer in many ways to the challenges described in the updates presented yesterday and today. We are therefore looking forward to further exchanges and feedbacks in order to keep the process of clearance dynamic in order to reach our ultimate goal, a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair