

APMBC, Intersessional meetings 2013

Norway - Statement on compliance

Mr. Co-chair,

Norway is concerned about any allegations of use of antipersonnel mines. It is the responsibility of every States Party to ensure compliance with the Convention. The Mine Ban Convention has established a norm that has virtually ended use of antipersonnel mines including by many States not Parties. Due to the humanitarian harm they cause, use of antipersonnel mines is therefore never acceptable under any circumstances.

Recent reports including strong allegations of use by one State Party, namely Yemen, should therefore be of the outmost concern to all States Parties, as any allegation of non-compliance should be. In addition, four other States Parties have received allegations of concern.

We urge the concerned States Parties to investigate and report on the outcome of those investigations, as soon as possible; as was also just mentioned in the statement by Yemen. If use has occurred, the responsible ones must be held accountable according to applicable national legislation. The verification system of the Convention includes that states themselves respond to such allegations and demonstrate transparency and cooperation.

How States Parties handle these most serious of possible breaches of the treaty will be a clear indicator of their commitment to preserving the treaty's strength and integrity.

Thank you, Mr. Co-chair.