

## **Notes for ICRC Statement on transparency and the exchange of information**

### **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, Geneva, 27 May 2013**

On behalf of the ICRC I would first of all like to thank **Belgium** for its relentless efforts as Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group.

Like Belgium, the ICRC is concerned about the significant decrease in the rate of reporting we have witnessed this year. Reporting is at its lowest rate ever, with only 40% of States Parties having submitted their reports so far this year. Some of the reports that have been submitted are of high quality but others present obsolete or confusing information, which does not help in gaining a true image of the status of implementation.

We wish to remind State Parties that submitting yearly reports in accordance with Article 7 is a legal obligation. It is also a means of sharing important information about treaty implementation with other States Parties. Most importantly, annual reports are a useful planning mechanism.

Reports are due by 30 April each year and should cover the last calendar year. The format can be very simple, especially where the information remains unchanged. We therefore urge all States, which have not yet done so, to promptly submit their reports for the 2012 calendar year.

The ICRC supports Belgium's efforts to link reporting with other topics to be addressed during the 13MSP. The Meetings of States Parties are mandated under Article 11 of the Convention to consider "matters arising from the reports submitted under the provisions of this Convention." Perhaps if reports were more closely examined by the Meeting of States Parties, or discussed in detail during the Intersessional Meetings, this could provide a greater incentive for States to submit more regular, quality reports.

The lack of reporting warrants in our view serious discussion during the 2014 Review Conference. The ICRC stands ready to participate in those discussions, with a view to revitalising the commitment to reporting under the Convention, without increasing the reporting burden on States Parties.