



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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**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 – article 5**

**Geneva, 27 and 28 May 2013**

*Check against delivery*

Co-chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

As this is the first my delegation is taking the floor, let me thank the co-chairs, Mozambique and the Netherlands, for their diligence in guiding us through this important meeting.

My delegation welcomes the extensive updates of the implementation of the clearance obligations under Article 5 provided by affected States Parties yesterday and today. We see from the presentations that there are countries, which have invested a remarkable share of their own resources under difficult circumstances to implement their commitments.

We welcome the efforts undertaken to provide regular updates to States Parties and to present clear data on contamination, on clearance achievements as well as on outstanding challenges in sometimes difficult circumstances. We also note with satisfaction that some States Parties have considerably increased national ownership and assume broader responsibilities, even though progress is still necessary in this area in a significant number of cases.

However, the overall situation gives rise to a number of concerns.

- As we have repeatedly stressed, States Parties should spare no effort to identify as soon as possible all areas under their jurisdiction or control in which landmines are suspected or known to be placed. We are still faced with too many States Parties for which the extent of the problem is not sufficiently clear, even many years after ratification.
- Some updates are based on insufficient data and incoherent survey results. This is even the case for States Parties with a relatively small and limited contamination. We continue to appeal to the affected States Parties to provide consistent and complete data, especially about the progress made. This is a crucial factor also in terms of cooperation and assistance: a quantitative and qualitative clarity on the remaining contamination is very important for all clearance activities. The inclusion of this clarity is of particular importance for new extension requests. This allows the definition of clear and coherent plans for the way forward, including measurable goals and milestones. On this base, the mobilization of resources in the context of international cooperation and assistance can be facilitated as a positive intermediate result.
- We seize the opportunity also to echo the aspects highlighted by Belgium and the UN Mine Action Service as well as ICRC and ICBL yesterday to understand reporting under Article 7 as an important tool for the implementation, also with reference to the clearance obligations. It is therefore indispensable in our view that the information provided in Article 7 reports is consistent with the updates and extension requests provided by affected countries.
- Switzerland is of the view that the gender dimension should be mainstreamed throughout in mine action. Therefore, Switzerland is implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security by way of a national action plan on the implementation of this resolution as well as by including it as a guiding principle in the mine action strategy of the Swiss Confederation. Therefore, we stress the particular importance of sex and gender disaggregated data collection in surveys and of

gender sensitive approaches to surveys and clearance. Research shows that the success and sustainability of projects is related to the extent gender issues are taken into consideration. This is particularly true for clearance and land release endeavours.

Our common goal of a world without antipersonnel mines can only be achieved if and when demining endeavours feature prominently on the political agenda and are included in overall development and other strategic national plans. We therefore need a coherent and well co-ordinated approach by all national authorities in co-operation with their international partners to keep up the momentum in regard to clearance and to ensure that the necessary resources are made available.

Thank you very for your attention.