

Statement by Mr. Markus Reiterer of Austria on Compliance

- Thank you very much Co-Chairs.
- Let me start by thanking all the States that have spoken so far for sharing information on the status and progress of implementation of stockpile destruction obligations in accordance with Article 4.
- Let me also congratulate Burundi and Sudan for being able to report completion of their stockpile destruction obligations. We are also satisfied to learn that stocks discovered in Afghanistan and Cape Verde have been destroyed.
- Co-Chairs, I would agree with you that cases of non-compliance with Article 4 are a serious matter of concern for the Mine Ban Treaty community as a whole and each State Party individually. Such cases of non-compliance need serious consideration by the States Parties and we regret that such cases have occurred.
- I would like to commend you for the pro-active manner in which you aim to address compliance issues in relation to Art. 4. Our task is twofold: first, we need to ensure the solution of existing compliance issues and second, we need to avoid such instances in the future.
- We call upon all those States with compliance problems to urgently take all necessary steps to rectify this situation and establish full compliance with the provisions of Art. 4 and Art. 1 para. 2 as soon as possible.
- We also call upon those States to ensure the highest possible degree of transparency, including the communication of a target date and a time line.
- Equally, I would like to commend those States to for the transparency they have shown thus far by reporting during this session of the Standing Committee on Stockpile destruction. I also appreciate information given on concrete action already taken.
- Let me conclude by stating that we fully share your approach taken on compliance with Art. 4 as outlined in document 2B and I wish to thank you for providing us with this document.
- Indeed, non-compliance usually may be the consequence of a lack of capacity or a lack of will. In both contexts, it is of utmost importance to ensure the highest possible degree of transparency and to have an early warning system in place that allows swift reaction to such situations.
- Thank you.