

**Notes for ICRC intervention to the
Standing Committee on Mine Clearance
under the agenda item**

**Updates by States Parties that were granted extensions on Article 5 deadlines
either in 2009 or 2010**

Tuesday, 22 June 2010

Thank you Mr. Co-chair,

The ICRC would like to thank all State Parties that provided today an update on their clearance progress since they were granted an extension either in 2008 or 2009.

First, we would like to add our voice to others earlier today and congratulate Nicaragua for having announced that it has now fully complied with its article 5 obligations. We would encourage Nicaragua to fill in the Declaration of Completion, as suggested earlier by the ISU, which was adopted by States Parties at the 7th Meeting of States Parties for declaring fulfilment of their Article 5 obligations. We also hope that a residual mine clearance capacity will be kept by Nicaragua in the event that previously unknown mined areas are being discovered.

Secondly, we were very pleased to hear the detailed presentations and excellent results given by Jordan and the United Kingdom. However, we regret that the UK was not in a position today to report on its future demining plans; the decision adopted by the 9th Meeting of States Parties on the original request submitted by the UK requested the UK to provide no later than 30 June 2010 these future demining plans.

Mr. Co-chairs, we heard a number of good news today but we also wish to express a few observations and concerns.

Out of all States Parties that took the floor, we understand that more than half of them are not on track to meet their 2010 objectives. A number of reasons were given for that situation. In a great number of cases lack of available funding is cited as the main reason for slow progress. We realise that there is a lot of competition for clearance resources but we would hope that some State Party report more clearly on their funding strategy and efforts during our next meeting.

We are concerned about the few countries we have heard this morning which have reported very little progress in the fulfilment of their article 5 obligations. The ICRC finds most worrying that in one case, demining activities have not begun 11 years after the entry into force of the Convention for that State Party.

Furthermore, we would like to echo some points put forward by the ICBL earlier that is the call for States Parties to report on their article 7 reports in the same level of clarity and precision than they are doing during our meetings. We would also call on all States Parties that have still got suspected areas around state or military infrastructures to clear these structures as soon as possible, in full conformity with their obligations under Article 1 of this Convention.

Finally, we would call on all States Parties, which have not done so today, to address at the next meeting the 2 other questions paused by co-chairs, and that is: 'is your State on track to achieving its objectives for 2010?' and 'What actions have been taken related to decisions of the States Parties with respect to your State's request?'

I thank you Mr. Co-Chair.