

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

**Updates from other relevant States Parties on the status of implementation of
Article 5**

Wednesday 23 June 2010

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair.

On behalf of the ICRC, let me first thank all States Parties that have taken the floor today that is most states which have deadlines in 2012 and beyond, to provide updates on their progress and plans. We were pleased to hear from a number of States Parties such as Nigeria, Burundi and Ethiopia that have indicated today that they expect to fulfil their Article 5 obligations within their deadlines.

We have three brief observations that we would like to share with regard to the presentations we have heard.

We would like to echo the remarks made by the ICBL. We too are concerned that, while all States which have taken the floor have reported on past progress, many have not provided the detailed plans of how they will achieve full mine clearance before the end of their deadline and whether they believe they will complete their clearance obligations before that date.

Secondly, we also hope that the States Parties which have today admitted that the extent of the contamination is unclear will do their utmost to be able to fulfil action points 14 of the Cartagena Action Plan and identify the precise perimeters and locations of all suspected mined areas before the 10th meeting of States Parties this year.

Thirdly, we have noted that the lack of adequate resources, whether in the form of financial resources, expertise or equipment, is the circumstance most frequently cited by mine-affected States Parties as an impediment to fulfilling their Article 5 obligations. We urge donor countries to continue to provide such support until clearance obligations have been completed. We also encourage mine-affected States Parties to ensure that mine clearance remains a national priority and to make efforts to identify additional support for completing their obligations.