

SC on General Status and Operation of the Convention:

2) Discussion on Article 7

Austria attaches great importance to Art. 7 reporting which was designed to enable States Parties provide and share information in an easy way. Art. 7 reports are the main tool provided for by the Convention to be transparent about all aspects regarding implementation.

Austria takes part in the efforts of the Article 7 Contact Group, encouraging States Parties to submit their reports, stressing the fact that reporting is an obligation and offering technical assistance for the reports, were needed. We have heard that there are Signatories who wish to submit their reports on a voluntary basis and would like to encourage them to do so.

A lot of States Parties are forwarding their reports. However, a significant number of States Parties are late with their reports and some reports are already long overdue. The reasons for this vary from lack of personnel and bureaucratic problems to, in some cases, simple ignorance about the obligation. It is therefore important to keep reminding all States Parties about this obligation. The non-paper on Article 7 also lists this point as the 1<sup>st</sup> suggestion. We think that this is a very good and timely paper. In our view, the most important suggestion of the non-paper is the emphasis that Art. 7 should be seen as more as yet another reporting obligation. Art. 7 reports are also a tool that could be used by States Parties to communicate their problems and needs as well as their progress with regard to the landmine problem in their respective countries. We would like to emphasise this point and invite States Parties, and in particular mine-affected States Parties, to consider Art. 7 reports in this light and to make use of this tool.