

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

**"Updates from relevant States Parties on the Status of Implementation"**

**Wednesday 10 May 2006**

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair,

Let me first on behalf of the ICRC thank all States Parties that have taken the floor so far – that is, those that have mine clearance deadlines in 2009 and 2010 – to provide updates on their progress and plans.

We wish to warmly congratulate those States Parties that have clearly expressed their plans, including timetables, for completing clearance of all mined areas under their jurisdiction or control within their deadlines under Article 5, while expressing their resource needs for achieving this objective, and in this regard we look forward to hearing from States Parties in a position to provide assistance as to how they intend to support these efforts.

However, we also wish to express here a few observations and concerns. We are concerned that, for many States Parties that have taken the floor, it is still unclear whether they are indeed planning to achieve clearance of all their mined areas within their Article 5 deadlines, even assuming that the necessary resources are available to do so.

In addition, a number of States Parties have presented plans that appear inconsistent with their Convention deadlines, in particular by setting timetables that go beyond their deadlines or, more worrying, that appear to extend indefinitely into the future.

We are also concerned that some States Parties that have upcoming deadlines, and that do not appear to have major resources constraints – at least relative to those of other mine-affected States Parties – have indicated that they are still only in the studying and planning stages, this some seven years after entry into force of the Convention for them.

We wish to remind all members of the Convention community that the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention constitutes the legal framework for mine action for the 151 States Parties to the treaty. With this in mind, we look forward to hearing more specific information from the concerned State Party on how they plan to fulfil their obligations under Article 5, as they promised to do in the Nairobi Action Plan.

Meaningful efforts must be made to complete clearance of all mined areas as required by Article 5 if the Convention is to succeed in achieving its goal of eliminating anti-personnel mines forever.

Thank you.