

Notes for ICRC statement on States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5

12th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention 5 December 2012

We would like to thank all States Parties that have reported among this last group of States for their updates.

We note that this group includes two new States Parties, **South Sudan** and **Somalia**, which have both made detailed presentations of their clearance challenge today. Both will need a lot of support in meeting their Article 5 obligations and we urge them, together with their partners, to start working now towards fulfilling their obligations with a sense of urgency, bearing in mind their 10 year deadline.

We are very pleased to have heard **Gambia's** report that it has no mined areas, including suspected areas, and intends to declare completion by its 2013 deadline. We would like to extend our congratulations to Gambia for this achievement.

We are concerned that Serbia is unlikely to meet its deadline but we commend it for its transparency. If Serbia decides to submit an extension request, we urge it to seek only the minimum time necessary to ensure completion of its Article 5 obligations.

We also thank Turkey for its transparency and its detailed reporting today. It is very encouraging that **Turkey** will soon finalise a contract for clearance of its Syrian border. It is also encouraging that Turkey, with the support of the European Union, will proceed with the clearance of its Eastern border, although we would have liked to have heard a timeframe for this project. We appreciate Turkey's acknowledgement that clearance is starting belatedly and we urge it to multiply its efforts in the coming years, now that the necessary political will exists to proceed. As Turkey has informed the States Parties that it will submit an extension request in 2013, we trust that request will include a detailed and concrete plan for clearance of all of its minefields.

Finally, we thank **Germany, Hungary and Niger** for their updates in respect of mined areas discovered after the expiry of their Article 5 deadlines. The sharing of such information has sparked much reflection on the need to establish a process to guide States Parties in this situation, which will be discussed under the next Agenda item. We note that **Hungary** is likely to complete its clearance project on the border with Croatia in the near future, while survey and clearance efforts in Germany and Niger will take more time.