



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Updates on Measures to Ensure Compliance

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Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties



Geneva

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

3-7 December 2012

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to provide updates on Afghanistan's progress to ensure treaty compliance.

In line with Article 9 of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Afghanistan is drafting legislation to ensure compliance with our obligations under both Conventions. Afghanistan is also in an extensive consultation process with mine action stakeholders and the Ministry of Justice to draft a law on mine action and the establishment of a national mine action authority. It is hoped that both these legislations will be approved in the coming year.

In accordance with Article 7 on transparency measures, Afghanistan has begun a two year survey process to gather mine and ERW information from all 34,000 communities in Afghanistan. This survey is an important process in understanding the location of the remaining problem. This will confirm the information we have on the presence or absence of mines and other explosive remnants of war in all communities throughout the country and will be used for future planning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am also pleased to announce that the Afghan Government has recently ratified the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, further strengthening its commitment assisting survivors of landmine and ERW accidents. The ratification comes at an opportune time as the Government is in the process of reviewing its National Disability Action Plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Afghanistan is proud to be taking more and more national responsibility for its obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty. On April 1 the activities of the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan became separate from the program management and representation role of the United Nations Mine Action Service. This move removed UNMAS (and all of the international staff) from the day-to-day management of coordinating mine action in Afghanistan. The move also installed the Government's Department of Mine Clearance personnel with MACCA counterparts with the aim of further increasing DMC capacity.

I am proud to say that the coordination of mine action in Afghanistan is now an all-Afghan activity.

UNMAS remains and provides financial and technical support to the MACCA and DMC partnership. A small UNMAS office provides oversight, advice if requested, monitoring and evaluation of MACCA activities, and mobilizes resources for the entire program. As the MACCA and DMC partnership further strengthens in the future, more and more responsibility will be transferred to the Government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The separation of the roles of MACCA and UNMAS is not the only example of the transition process of shifting more responsibility to the Afghan Government. Afghan Mine Action Standards have been passed to the Afghan National Standards Authority for maintenance and ownership, the Ministry of Public Health has recently become involved in mines and ERW injury surveillance, Ministry of Education continues to provide mine/ERW risk education as part of the national curriculum and is making progress in terms of inclusive education for children with disabilities. In the last 4 months community police have been trained to deliver mine and ERW risk education in affected communities and to report mine and ERW casualties. These trained Afghan police personnel will be part of the residual capacity in the future.

I hope this information demonstrates the progress Afghanistan is making on many fronts.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.