



17th MSP to the Ottawa Convention
Statement
Reflecting on the implementation of Article 5
Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior

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17^{ème} Assemblée des États Parties à la Convention
d'Ottawa
Déclaration
Réflexions sur la mise en œuvre de l'Article 5
Ambassadeur Sabrina Dallafior

Geneva, 29.11.2018

Madam President,

We would like to thank the *Committee on Article 5 Implementation* for its reflections upon the challenges encountered by States Parties in implementing Article 5 obligations, taking into account the different decisions taken until now by the community of States Parties to address this challenge. Indeed, Article 5 plays a key role in the Convention. Our collective objective to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines will in part be measured by how effective we have been in clearing mined areas. As 30 States Parties have already fulfilled their clearance obligations, the provisions contained in Article 5, along with the obligation to destroy all stockpiled mines, belong to one of the most successful of the Convention, with a clear impact on the ground.

With a number of States still to fulfil their clearance obligation in the coming years, the Convention faces issues that it will be important to address if its promises are to be maintained.

During the last years, we have been observing a preoccupying increase in the number of victims of landmines. This increase is linked to contemporary armed conflicts in which landmines of an improvised nature are increasingly used. The applicability of the convention does not change depending on how an antipersonnel landmine is produced, all of its provisions apply to all anti-personnel mines, independently if they are manufactured or of an improvised nature. Given the impact improvised mines are having on the ground, it is all the more important that States Parties address them as part of their fulfilment of Article 5 obligations and report on their presence on their territory in line with Article 7.

Another challenge States Parties have been facing is the one represented by the discovery of previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, after the clearance obligations have been fulfilled. Also here, States Parties have adopted precise norms and processes regulating these situations. The State Party in question has the obligation to inform all States Parties of this discovery and if the contamination cannot be dealt with swiftly an extension request should be submitted.

Finally, equally important, is how States Parties have decided to declare completion of their Article 5 obligations. It is now a well-established practice that this is done through a voluntary declaration using the language adopted at the 7th and 12th MSP. As recommended in the Article 5 Committee reflection paper, we believe that in continuing this practice, concerned States Parties should reach out to the Committee and the ISU to cooperate on the content of such a declaration.

Thank you Madam President.