

ICBL

Mme President, distinguished delegates. We have been spending a good deal of time over the past year discussing the matter of Article 5 extension requests, which we all agree is important for the proper implementation of this article. But the ICBL is pleased to hear today's discussion return to the most significant part of Article 5 – the requirement for States Parties to destroy all AP mines in all mined areas “as soon as possible” but no later than 10 years after becoming a state party. It is on this fundamental requirement that we need to focus our energy over the coming years.

We have seen some positive developments in this regard. Thanks to the hard work of the deminers themselves, national and international demining organizations, and with the support of both mine-affected and donor States Parties – the 2006 Landmine Monitor Report found that 12 States Parties were on track to meet their 2009 or 2010 deadline: Albania, Ecuador, France, Jordan, Malawi, Nicaragua, Peru, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, and Venezuela. We were delighted to hear that an additional state that we had put in this category – the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – has now finished its obligations three years ahead of schedule. We were also pleased that this completion was announced in a formal and clear manner, along the lines of a proposed standard completion declaration that we hope will be adopted at the end of this week.

In addition, the Landmine Monitor found that more than 740 km<sup>2</sup> of suspected land was released in 2005, more than any other year since modern demining began in the late 1980s. Much of this increase was due to more use of area reduction and cancellation techniques, which, when used judiciously, can help focus scarce resources on areas that are known, rather than suspected, to contain AP mines. Indeed, 55% of the 2005 figure was released after area reduction rather than mine or battlefield clearance. States Parties with Article 5 obligations may be able to learn from the experiences of Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, and Yemen, which together reduced 525 km<sup>2</sup> of suspected land. [The Landmine Monitor also found positive examples of national ownership and good governance of mine action, including the ability to effectively mobilize resources, that have contributed to a number of states' progress on Article 5 implementation.]

On the other hand, the Landmine Monitor found that at least 13 of the states with 2009/10 deadlines – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Croatia, Denmark, Mozambique,