

Introduction of Discussion paper *Applying all available methods to achieve the full, efficient and expedient implementation of article 5.*

Thank you mr President

Norway has submitted a paper for the consideration of the states parties. The paper is entitled *Applying all available methods to achieve the full, efficient and expedient implementation of article 5.* It is an attempt to sum up the discussions we have had in this community over the past years on the range of methods available to assess suspected mined areas, and then employ the adequate means to clear them if they contain mines or release them if this can be done according to safety standards.

The objective of the paper is to bring the findings of these discussions to a conclusion that can be useful for States Parties with Article 5 obligations, States Parties supporting such actions and for the practitioners involved in assessing, clearing and eventually releasing land that has been suspected to contain mines.

The paper provide a brief outline of the discussions that has taken place in this community, from the 6th meeting of States parties and onwards. It gives a brief presentation of the three main land release methods available to approach suspected mined areas. These are Non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.

The paper then proceed to provide an overview of the principles that land release methods need to be based on, including reference to the UN International Mine Action standards. Finally the paper present eight concrete recommendations for state parties on how best to integrate a full land release approach to article 5 situations.

Discussions that has informed this paper has involved close consultations with other States parties, the United Nations, the ICBL, the ICRC and the NGO humanitarian deminers, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Implementation Support unit. Norway believes that the paper represent a fair summing up of the various findings and recommendations that the consultations have developed.

Its important to note that this is not a technical paper, meant to provide detailed guidance for mine action operators. It is an

attempt to align the realities of the field operators with the diplomatic efforts to ensure compliance and implementation of the convention. We hope that States Parties can support the paper and its recommendations, and that it can be included in the final report from this meeting. We look forward to your views on the issues.

Thank you mr President