

APLC Standing Committee meetings 2010

General status and operation of the Convention

Statement by Ireland on retention of AP mines for permitted purposes (Article 3)

Monday, 21 June 2010

Co-Chairs,

As you are well aware, Article 3 of the Convention permits the retention or transfer of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques.

Ireland possesses a small number of anti-personnel mines for these purposes, and I am happy to provide the Committee with an update in this regard.

The Irish Defence Forces use live anti-personnel mines in the development and validation of mine render safe procedures and in training personnel in these procedures. Render safe procedures normally involve the destruction of the mine.

Live mines are also used as part of the testing and validation of mechanical mine clearance equipments and in the training of personnel in the use of such equipments.

Minimum metal content mines are used, as required, in the calibration and testing of mine detection equipments.

Ireland has provided information in its Article 7 report on the use of mines retained for permitted purposes. This report is available on the relevant page on the website of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

I would take the opportunity to point out that, as the number of anti-personnel mines currently possessed by Ireland for permitted purposes has fallen to a very low level (with only 66 remaining as at 31 December 2009) the acquisition of replacement anti-personnel mines for the same purposes, as permitted by the Convention, is likely to become necessary at some stage in the future.

Thank you for your attention.