

Tuesday 29/11.16 Kopi unless Haus BRATTSKAR
NORWAY

15th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Santiago, 28 November-2 December 2016

Statement by Norway on Implementation of Article 5

Thank you, Mr. President.

We thank the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for the conclusions and recommendations presented.

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. As we approach this milestone of the treaty, we should make maximum use of the lessons learned over the last two decades.

With far more experience, new technology and vastly improved methodologies available to the mine action sector today than when the Convention came into being, all mine-affected countries should be able to complete mine clearance within a reasonable period of time.

At a time when pressure on donor budgets is increasing, the mobilisation of financial support for demining will depend on making the most effective use of available resources - and on showing results. This requires targeting funding on **evidence based survey** and clearance. We can no longer afford to waste resources on costly and time-intensive clearance of areas where there is no evidence of contamination.

Norway is proud to fund the work of Mine Action Review, and its annual "Clearing the Mines" report which is presented to this meeting by the three largest demining operators jointly. We urge all stakeholders to make use of this publication, as a tool to help identify remaining challenges and where efforts need to be targeted to ensure progress.

Partnerships may take many shapes and forms. The Global Demining Initiative for Colombia which was presented yesterday has helped put humanitarian demining in Colombia on the international agenda. So far, the initiative has brought together more than 20 donor nations along with the European Union, and over \$105 million has been pledged for

mine action, to help Colombia's efforts to meet its Convention obligations.

Sadly, over the last few years we have seen an increase in the use of improvised landmines, by non-state armed groups, in the Middle East and elsewhere, resulting in an increasing number of civilian casualties. As we know, victim-activated improvised landmines fall under the provisions of the Mine Ban Treaty. Addressing the large-scale contamination from improvised mines and the suffering they cause will require a coordinated humanitarian effort and dedicated resources from the international community.

Where extensions to Article 5 deadlines are required, we expect to see detailed extension requests, based on a realistic understanding of remaining contamination, and with concrete steps and milestones for how to address mined areas in the most effective means possible.

It does however require that mine-affected countries have the political will to make it a national priority. And it cannot happen unless international funding for mine clearance continues to be forthcoming.

Norway will continue to fulfill its Article 6 obligation to assist in the implementation of the Convention, including through support for survey activities and mine clearance in affected States. We are currently funding efforts in 20 countries, and will continue to give priority to countries that demonstrate strong national ownership and clear progress towards completion.

Thank you.